

Whitewash gibes as illegal phone taps denied

MI5 inquiry fails to allay fears of MPs

By James Naughtie,
Political Correspondent

The report by Lord Bridge into the ministerial authorisation of telephone tapping yesterday cleared successive governments of breaking the rules but failed to stem criticism of the security and intelligence services.

The brief report, excerpts from which were released by the Prime Minister in a letter to Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, infuriated Opposition MPs who claimed it failed to set at rest the fears about taproom policies raised in the Channel 4 documentary, *MI5's Official Secrets*.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow home secretary, said the report was an insult and an outrage.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said it failed to deal with any "freelance" MI5 operations not covered by ministerial warrant. It did not tackle the problem of blanket warrants, giving authorisation for a large number of phone taps of individuals in one organisation.

Far from calming the fears raised by the documentary, the report by Lord Bridge, chairman of the Security Commission, has produced a new flurry of questions and the promise of more trouble ahead for the Government over the operation of MI5 and the political control exerted over it.

Mrs Thatcher said a review of relevant papers had convinced Lord Bridge that ministers since 1970 had not issued warrants for interceptions outside the accepted guidelines.

This was quickly followed by a statement from Charles Healey, secretary of State, that the Government was in agreement with the Broadcasting Standards Commission on the issue.

documentary will be shown tomorrow evening. A discussion on its implications will be broadcast after the screening and next week the 20/20 Vision team will make the documentary available to broadcast a political discussion intended to allow conflicting points of view to be aired on the questions raised by the allegations made in the programme by Ms Cathy Masliah, a former MI5 employee.

Ministers are still determined to resist comment on the specific claims in the film that prominent trade unionists and CND activists have been bugged under successive governments.

It is insisted that no individual cases can be discussed and Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, said:

"The official response to the criticism of Lord Bridge's terms of reference was that the documentary did not raise specific allegations of unauthorised activity by MI5, but only claims that warrants issued by ministers had been outside the established guidelines."

It was said that it was the nature of the allegations in the programme that had dictated the scope of the inquiry, and that it had therefore been a proper response to the claims.

The criteria at the heart of the argument were specified by Lord Bridge in his report. They are the Maxwell-Fyfe directives to the director general of MI5 in 1952, the Barrett report of 1957 into MI5 warrants, a speech by Lord Harris of Greenwich, then a Home Office minister, in 1975 and the white paper on interceptions produced in 1980.

The most important element in the criteria is the necessity for an individual to be shown to be both suspected of subversion and deserving of surveillance.

Mr Kaufman said: "As long as the Government refuses to treat these matters with the seriousness they deserve, people will understandably believe that they have something to hide."

He said that the most serious allegations had not been answered. They were that individuals had been falsely classified as subversive to give legitimacy to the issue of a warrant; that material obtained by MI5 had been used for party political purposes; that interception had taken place without ministers' knowledge; and that investigations had taken place into the politics and personal lives of members of non-subversive organisations.

Bill covers GCHQ, back page; Cartoon, page 2; Letters, page 12.

Secretary, will repeat that message next week when the Commons debates the second reading of the Interception of Communications Bill.

The debate was postponed when yesterday's Commons business was wiped out by a filibuster, lasting more than 21 hours, on the Water of London Bill.

Lord Bridge's terms of reference restricted him to the question of whether ministers since 1970 had operated under established guidelines in authorising telephone tapping.

He declared: "I am satisfied after full examination of all relevant documents that no warrant for interception has been issued in contravention of the appropriate criteria."

Tories lead Labour by 2pc

By Martin Linton

There is further evidence today in an extra mid-month opinion poll by Marplan that the Conservatives are ahead of Labour, though the gap is now only two points, the narrowest since October.

The poll gives the Conservatives 38, Labour 36, Alliance 26 and shows little movement since the regular Guardian-Marplan Index for February taken before the Ponting affair, which gave the Conservatives 38, Labour 35 and Alliance 28.

It lends weight to the impression that the Mori poll last weekend, which put Labour two points ahead of the Conservatives, was out of line and that the true position, reflected in this Marplan poll and a later Mori poll, is that the Government is still a few points in front.

The poll was conducted a week after the Ponting affair and seems to confirm the view that Mrs Thatcher is able to survive banana skins with remarkable aplomb. Her popularity, which shot up during the Falklands war and after the Brighton bomb, has not shot down since. Ponting, and appears to be almost shock-proof.

Indeed, both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Kinnock see a two-point increase in their rating in answer to the question "Who would make the best prime minister?" after a week in which they were at one another's throats over the Belgrano affair. Mrs Thatcher stands at 33 and Mr Kinnock at 22. Dr Owen and Dr Steel, who tried to keep out of the scrap, have seen their ratings slip with Dr Owen at 11, now again in bottom place, two points behind Mr Steel.

The Marplan poll does not hear out the assumptions of interest rates and mortgages are the real reason for the gradual decline in the Conservative lead. Asked to name the most important issue facing the country, the great majority — 64 per cent — still named unemployment and only 1 per cent named interest rates, down from 2 per cent last month.

The Guardian-Marplan poll was based on a tightly-controlled quota sample of 1,472 adults aged 18-plus in 109 randomly selected constituencies. Interviewing was completed by February 21 and 22. The results of the regular monthly poll will be published on March 21.

Tory rebels wash out Commons timetable

By Alan Tait

A filibuster lasting 21 hours by a band of 30 Conservative rebels forced the cancellation of all of yesterday's business in the Commons, including the second reading of the Interception of Communications Bill.

The protest included a marathon record-breaking speech by one MP.

The debate on the remaining stages of the Water (Floodation Bill) began at 11.12 on Tuesday night and ended at 11.13 on Wednesday.

3.00 last night with the Government securing a majority of 83, Mr Ivan Lawrence, QC, the Conservative MP for Burton, made a speech lasting four hours, 23 minutes, the longest continuous discourse of the century.

The rebels were hoping to force the Government to abandon the bill but ministers were determined to press on with its report and third reading stages regardless of the damage it

dictated upon their parliamentary timetable.

Rebels have previously forced the cancellation of the bill during its earlier stages as part of their protest. The bill mandates the largest position of health authorities which decided to add floods to their local water supply.

Mr Lawrence spoke from 5.12 am to 9.35 am.

Mr Lawrence, a QC, apologised to MPs that he could give them only a limited exposition of his case, as he had to cut short his speech so that he could be present at the Old Bailey yesterday.

He is defending in a trial involving a £5 million robbery Mr Lawrence admitted some MPs might have acted off during his speech. But he did his best to wake them up. His alarm watch went off shortly after 8 am, his normal time for getting up, he explained.

The vote on the bill was 165 to 82.

Shell axes 1,000 jobs

By Staff Reporters

Shell UK is to axe 1,000 jobs, about a third of the workforce at its oil and chemical complex at Stanlow, near Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, it was disclosed yesterday.

Another 2,000 jobs are threatened at the water engineering manufacturer based at Darlaston, West Midlands.

Shell, which wants to save £200 million a year, blamed competition, over capacity and poor profitability. The firm hopes to avoid compulsory redundancies.

Accountants who moved in to run Stanlow yesterday said the business was selling parts of the business as going concerns.

Competition blamed, back page.

Top Soviet pianist asks to stay

By Gareth Parry

One of the Soviet Union's most outstanding young pianists, Andrei Gavrilov, has applied for permission to stay in Britain in what is expected to be the prelude to yet another artistic defection to the West.

Gavrilov, a winner of the prestigious Tchaikovsky Prize, arrived in Britain on February 18 for a concert at the Royal Albert Hall. He was confirmed yesterday that he and his wife, Natalya, had asked to stay beyond the limit of their visas.

Their request is being considered by the Home Secretary, whose agreement is expected within the next few days.

Gavrilov, who will probably be given permission to stay for a year on his application, cannot be said to have defected although he has moved out of his official Soviet passport to the Central Music School where most of the great

Mr Mick McGahey, the NUM vice-president, being jostled by miners still on strike after delegates in Edinburgh voted for a return to work.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Willis is jeered at demo

A BIG TUC demonstration against rate-capping was disrupted by activists who barracked the TUC general secretary, Mr Norman Willis, Report, and Edinburgh inquiry, page 3; Leader comment, page 19; Coming to terms with overblown rhetoric, page 19.

Adoption advice
EMIGRATION officers have been told to turn a blind eye to childless British couples bringing in foreign babies with the intention of adoption. Page 3.



Arts incentive
LORD Gowrie, the Arts Minister, yesterday announced two schemes to attract small and medium-sized businesses into art sponsorship. Culture clubbed, page 26.

Minister arrested
THE Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands, British protectorate, in the Caribbean has been arrested for taking bribes in a drugs "string" operation. Page 8.

Cricket final
PAKISTAN will play India in the final of the World Championship of Cricket after beating the West Indies by seven wickets yesterday. Page 27.

The weather
Dry and sunny. Details, back page.

Top Soviet pianist asks to stay

Soviet musicians have studied. His decision to stay comes in the early stages of his flamboyant interpretations of Rachmaninov, Prokofiev and Scriabin being given in the West for the second time. He was barely 24 when he did a series of concerts in Europe and the United States in 1976. He had won the prestigious Tchaikovsky competition in Moscow in 1974, when he was 18, and looked like a rising international star.

But the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in late 1979 broke East-West cultural relations. Gavrilov, along with other Soviet artists, suddenly ceased appearing in the West.

With those relations easing, he appeared in London in November when, in an interview, he expressed his wish to go to the United States "as soon as possible."

95pc of miners at work as collapse continues

By Keith Harper and Patrick Winour

More miners abandoned their strike in Yorkshire and Scotland yesterday and the National Coal Board last night announced that 176,000 men — 95 per cent of the NUM's membership — had returned to work.

This left about 10,000 miners on strike, most of them in Yorkshire, Scotland and Kent, where the strike is still almost solid. More miners were expected to return today and the NCB thinks most miners will be at work by the end of the week.

The board continued to discuss amnesty cases with the NUM yesterday and by the end of the day it had made its first small concession. Thirty-eight miners out of the 700 dismissed during the strike had either been reinstated or re-employed.

This total will grow over the next few weeks, but the NCB maintains its tough approach and that it will not reinstate min-

ers sacked for what it sees as serious offences.

The return to work was causing local problems and the NCB admitted that full production was a long way off.

Kent miners called off their picketing of other areas in an effort to sustain the dispute until the granting of a general amnesty and a special conference of Scottish miners voted for a return to work.

The decision in Edinburgh, by 10 votes to five, reversed a 7-6 vote on Monday that the strike should continue until the 180 men sacked in Scotland were reinstated.

A large number of miners had gathered outside the meeting demanding: "No return."

When the delegates emerged, the anger burst forth. The board welcomed the turn to back page, col. 5.

through. Officials, including Mr Mick McGahey, the NUM's vice-president, were jostled and abused.

Some protesters tried to force their way into the NUM area building but were restrained by others. Later, Mr McGahey said he recognised that the Scottish coalfield would have returned to work by the end of the week.

He declared that the union would mount a campaign to get Mr Albert Wheeler, the NCB's Scottish director, to move from his stated position that there would be no amnesty for men sacked for violence and intimidation. "He terms it amnesty," he said. "I term it victimisation."

Asked how he regarded the hostile reception from his members, Mr McGahey said he was not surprised. The men had been on strike for a year, and had been penalised by the courts and social security board.

The board welcomed the turn to back page, col. 5.

Libya faces claim over shot WPC

By Patrick Kentley,
Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain has served notice on Libya that a formal claim of compensation for the death of WPC Yvonne Fletcher, 34, will be presented to the Gaddafi administration before the end of April.

This, and a British offer of visas for Libyans needing to come to Britain for medical or compassionate reasons, were the two most important developments to emerge from the intensive day of consultations between senior officials of the

two governments, meeting in Rome this week.

The British side came to the conference table with the news that the British consul in Tripoli, Mr Hugh Dumschille, has already received authorisation from London to prepare visas for the families of the five Libyans held in British prisons after the London and Manchester bombings of March 1984.

The meeting in Rome came about on the initiative of the Libyans, who wanted to follow up the recent mission by Mr Terry Waite, who negotiated the release of the four Britons held since soon after the break

in relations between the two countries last year.

He took with him to Tripoli a message from the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, stating that Britain was ready to make a practical humanitarian gesture by granting visas in the most pressing cases for Libyans to make visits to this country.

The Libyan team in Rome, led by Mr Saad Hafana, did not react immediately to the gesture. In Whitehall, ministers regard this as a pilot scheme which could lead to

turn to back page, col. 5.

IRA man guilty of London bomb murders

By Paul Keel

A Belfast man was found guilty at the Old Bailey yesterday of taking part in an IRA bombing campaign in London in the autumn of 1981, which left three people dead.

Paul Kavanagh, aged 29, was convicted on three charges of murder, two of causing explosions and two of possessing explosives.

The jury which convicted him was sent to a London hotel for a third night yesterday after asking for more time to consider their verdicts on the same charges against a second defendant, Thomas Quigley, also 29, from Belfast.

Kavanagh, described in court as unemployed and of no fixed address, was found guilty of the murder of Mrs Nora Field, 59, and Patrick Breslin, 18, in October, 1981. Both were killed as a result of a nail bomb explosion near Chelsea Barracks.

He was also found guilty of murdering Mr Kenneth Howarth, an explosives expert, who was blown up later that month while attempting to defuse a booby-trapped bomb in an Oxford Street Wimpy bar.

The jury of six men and six women, who had been considering their verdicts for 2½ days, also found Kavanagh guilty of causing two explosions at Debenhams' store in Oxford Street and at the Wimbledon home of Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General.

They also convicted him of being in possession of firearms and explosives found at the IRA arms caches between 1983 and 1984.

He was found not guilty of attempting to murder Sir Stuart Pringle, the commandant-general of the Royal Marines, in a car bomb attack.

After the jury had returned their verdicts on Kavanagh and had retired to continue their deliberations on the other defendant, the trial judge, Mr Justice McCowan, made an order under the Contempt of Court Act banning publication of any material which had not formed part of the case against the two men heard by the jury during the trial.

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Hard-pressed health bodies
may get Aids monitoring rule

Economy drive puts laboratory centre at risk

By Andrew Veitch,
Medical Correspondent

Health ministers are considering a plan to dissolve the national agency in charge of controlling Aids as part of an economy drive.

A cost-cutting report drawn up by officials at the Department of Health and Social Security recommends that the Public Health Laboratory Service should hand over its 52 laboratories in England and Wales to local health authorities.

This would cut the service's budget by more than a quarter — over £11 million a year — according to the report which is due to go out for consultation next month.

Members of the service's governing board are warning that it might seriously jeopardise the agency's ability to monitor the spread of infectious diseases — particularly Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

Teams at the agency's headquarters at Colindale, north London, and its microbiology centre at Porton Down, Wiltshire, rely on the national network of laboratories to provide monthly reports on outbreaks of diseases.

Scientists and technicians in the local laboratories test some six million specimens a year for viruses and bacteria. Their skills in microbiology, and their equipment, make them uniquely qualified to track the Aids virus.

Their reports are analysed and checked at the Central Public Health Laboratory, and the results are passed on to the organisation, the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre.

Most of the local laboratories are based in or near district general hospitals. They test patients' samples for local doctors as well as food and water for environmental health departments.

All but two are funded jointly by district health authorities, and the Public Health Laboratory Service. The ready receipt of information from other National Health Service laboratories, which is why the cost-cutting report argues for transferring the entire operation to the health authorities.

But PHLS board members say that the district authorities, already suffering from government health cuts, could not afford to run this national service and that the PHLS

would be denied information needed to control epidemics. The concern is that it will be impossible to maintain a national public health surveillance function if the two aspects of the work — curing the patient and preventing the spread of an infection — are divorced.

The report recognises the funding problems and says: "Separate funding of the PHLS is seen as advantageous in ensuring the availability of funds both locally and nationally in the often neglected area of preventive medicine. Funds that may otherwise be absorbed by the pressing demands of the acute services."

It is not the services provided by the laboratories that we are questioning or the need for a flow of material or reliable information to the centre. What we are questioning is the need to centrally fund and administer an independent network of laboratories within and chiefly serving the health services.

Dr Gordon Smith, the PHLS chairman, has already had to reduce staff to cope with government cuts of £1.5 million in the current financial year, another £1.5 million next year, rising to £2.1 million in 1986/87.

In a recent British Medical Journal, Sir James Howie, a former physician to the Queen, warned that the laboratory service was being "starved of funds." He said: "Its essential structure must not be wrecked on the assumption — certainly false — that real economies will result."

The system of peripheral laboratories, set up in the last war to cope with epidemics, was "admitted and envied" by its vastly richer counterpart in the United States, the Centers for Disease Control, Sir James said.

He warned: "District health authorities have neither the incentive nor the powers to get going measures of action and investigation covering regions wider than their own."

In the Commons this week the junior health minister, Mr John Patten, said ministers were considering the report.

Staffordshire fire service is to issue special plastic mouth covers for use when giving the kiss of life — to foreign, or fear they are in danger of catching Aids.

The county council is to buy 1,000 of the mouth pieces at a cost of £300.

Rail unions seek 31pc 'to catch up'

By John Ardill,
Labour Correspondent

The railway unions NUR and ASLEF are seeking pay rises of up to 31.4 per cent and a minimum rate of £100 a week in claims lodged yesterday which aim to restore earnings of 90,000 RWR workers to their 1975 level.

The general secretaries Mr Jimmy Knapp and Mr Ray Buckton took grim satisfaction in pointing out that the bottom-grade rate for railwaymen had fallen below the "notoriously low paid" agricultural workers even before Tuesday's 2.5 per cent award.

Mr Buckton dismissed past statements by the BR chairman Mr Bob Reid that the board might not be able to afford any increase this year, as the comments were "merely trying to persuade railmen to cross miners' picket lines."

"It has got to be taken in that context. I don't think they would ever be in a position of saying we are not going to get anything," he said.

The minimum rate of £100 a week which the unions want for the railmen and traction tractors is a far cry from the £100 a week which has been achieved and exceeded by many labourers in industry and the public utilities, they say.

The unions, which are also asking for a 35-hour week and a fifth week's holiday, said the claim must be negotiated separately from the outstanding productivity issues.

In a parallel claim the white-collar union TSSA says its members need increases between 24.4 per cent and 30 per cent.

Harlech lost control of car

Lord Harlech: skidded 100 yards

Lord Harlech was driving at around 85 m.p.h. on an unlit country road, and skidded for more than 100 yards before the collision that killed him, an inquest heard yesterday.

He threw his Audi car into reverse to try to avoid an oncoming car, the accident investigator, Constable Roderick McKinnon told the hearing at Shrewsbury.

But in the collision near the village of Montford Bridge, Shropshire, Lord Harlech, aged 65, was badly hurt and died hours later in hospital. The coroner, David Crawford, recorded a verdict of accidental death.

PC McKinnon, who showed the hearing a video film of the finding stretch of road involved, said he felt that Lord Harlech, the chairman of Harlech TV, lost control of his car as he was driving home from London.

The weather was too bad for Lieutenant Commander Waghorn's tent to be spotted by a British Antarctic survey plane which flew over the island on Tuesday, said a member of a previous joint service expedition to the area.

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'Here it is in black and white—the invisible man assures us that the invisible watchdog is constantly on the statutory lead!'

PM aide 'said agency stank'

By Sarah Boseley

A former press aide to the Prime Minister told a committee that the main purpose of a housing association run by prominent London Conservatives seemed to be to provide one of their number with an income, it was alleged at the High Court yesterday.

It was also alleged that management and maintenance contracts worth £80,000 a year on the 300-unit Strongbridge Housing Association in North London had been signed by the management committee, dominated by Tory figures on the Greater London Council, with two companies owned by Mr Geoffrey Seaton, secretary of the association and the Tory chief whip on the council.

On the third day of Mr Derek Howe's libel action against the Times newspaper, Time One and the Sunday Times, Mr David Rose, he was asked if he remembered a trip to the Ideal Home Exhibition with Mrs Thatcher in the late 1970s.

Mr Rose, who was a member of the association's management committee, that he replied: "Not a lot. It's a main purpose seems to be to provide Geoffrey Seaton with an income." Mr Rose replied: "I do not recall."

Mr Rampton suggested to Mr Howe that he had a further conversation on the subject with Mr Tremlett in the bar of the House of Lords sometime before the GLC elections of May 1981. The Tories lost control of the council in that election.

Counsel claimed that Mr Tremlett said the Housing Corporation, which supervises housing associations, was very unhappy with the financial management of Strongbridge and was thinking of getting its own nominees on the committee.

Mr Howe could remember none of the conversation. Mr Tremlett, Mr Rampton went on to tell Mr Howe that "Strongbridge stank" and that Mr Howe would suffer politically if all the details became public.

Mr Rampton asked him if he remembered repeating that "Strongbridge was a good source of funds for your party," Geoffrey Seaton, Mr Howe said he did not recall it. He said he did not remember saying that the committee did not meet very often and that he did not recall how it was.

Mr Howe was a part-time time as a political adviser at No. 10 Downing Street, is claiming damages over two articles in November 1982 which he says falsely alleged he tried to obstruct an inquiry by the GLC into the management of the housing association.

He says that references to Scotland Yard being called in implied that he was involved in illegal conduct.

The allegation of obstruction came from Mr Terry Dicks, a prospective parliamentary candidate, and the chairman of the housing committee of Hillingdon council which, with the GLC, had put £44 million into the association. By the summer of 1982 the association was more than £800,000 in debt.

Mr Howe had agreed that he phoned Mr Dicks in August 1982 to ask him what was the position of Hillingdon council, the association's biggest creditor, on suggestions that all the members of the management committee should be removed.

Mr Dicks had said he was in favour as was Mr Tony McBrearty, the Labour chairman of the housing committee. Mr Howe agreed that he had told Mr Dicks it would not be good for him politically or for the Conservative party if he co-operated with Mr McBrearty.

Mr Howe denied that he tried to persuade Mr Dicks to neglect his public duty. The case continues.

Scargill secure, say NUM leaders

Mr Arthur Scargill's position as president of the National Union of Mineworkers is probably safe despite criticisms of his handling of the coal dispute, many NUM executive members believed last night.

They were preparing for their first meeting in Sheffield since the strike ended. They said that they were determined that there should be no restrictions on today's meeting and that the first steps should be taken towards building up the union again.

This will involve setting up internal committees, such as finance and grading, whose functions were taken over by the special committee to oversee the strike, which consisted of half the executive. Some thought that the overtime ban would continue but this would affect the pay of miners who need cash to pay huge debts.

The NUM leadership will aim to restore relationships with the Nottinghamshire area. A decision about whether it should be expelled from the national union has been deferred because of the strike. The threat to Mr Scargill comes from this area and from working miners' groups who

would need a considerable effort by his union critics to press successfully for his overthrow at a conference.

This would require the defection of areas like South Wales, Durham, Yorkshire and Kent and the indications from past conferences show that Mr Scargill would still hold sway today.

NUM leaders were also saying last night that there was no sign of a suitable successor if Mr Scargill was to be replaced. Balloting is going on to decide the composition of the new executive which will take office after the July conference.

Reports from several areas suggest that retiring members will be replaced by leftwingers because they have been the activists in the branches where the strike has been upheld. This would help Mr Scargill to maintain his control on the executive, it was claimed.

Mr Scargill's reputation among NUM activists at delegate conference is strong. It

Keith Harper on how a challenge could be mounted against the miners' president

are contesting his presidency through the courts.

Mr Scargill could face re-election at the end of next year under the Trade Union Act 1984, but this would probably require a declaration in court that he had used his casting vote at executive meetings.

Last night executive members could not recall this happening although they did remember a time at the start of the dispute when he ruled

on whether a ballot should be held on the strike. However, a ruling is different from a casting vote.

No internal action could be taken against him until the union's annual conference, due to be held at Sheffield in July.

NUM rules on removal of an executive official are specific and apply to Mr Scargill. Rule 11 says that a resolution seeking an official's removal must be passed by at least two thirds of delegates at a specially convened conference. If approved, it would have to be confirmed by two thirds of the members in a ballot.

Mr Scargill's reputation among NUM activists at delegate conference is strong. It

Hurd suggests using intermediary to break deadlock in Ulster

By Colin Brown,
Political Staff

The Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, yesterday suggested that an intermediary could be used to break the deadlock between the Unionists and the SDLP about devolving powers to the province.

Mr Hurd made the suggestion when he addressed a press gallery luncheon at the Commons.

It was later emphasised that Mr Hurd had no one in mind for the role of reference could be. "Whether it's a conciliator or a messenger boy has not been considered," said a source.

The unionists would almost certainly reject an intermediary from outside the United Kingdom, and the possibility of EEC help was discounted last night.

Mr Hurd recognised there were doubts on each side of an argument about the intentions of the other — the

greater common purpose than is immediately apparent," he said. "When the time seems ripe, the Government will have to play a role."

This might be done through putting forward some ideas of our own or possibly through asking an intermediary to help the parties to clarify their positions. But in advance of any such moves, the parties should be prepared to hold discussions even if only quietly and informally."

The bombing attack on the Newry police station last week, which had left nine dead, should not be allowed to stunt the development of more stable political arrangements.

He added that the SDLP leader, Mr John Hume, whose failed attempt to see IRA leaders was used by the Unionists to justify their refusal to renew talks, last night called for a more flexible approach from the Government, when he gave a lecture at Exeter University.

"I believe there may be a

Lawrence gets into Poets' Corner

D.H. LAWRENCE, who once mocked the literary establishment in a bitter poem, "Don't be sucked in by the super-super," Don't swallow the culture bait," has won his place in Poets' Corner.

After a three-year campaign, the author of the Rainbow, Women in Love, Sons and Lovers and Lady Chatterley's Lover is to be commemorated by a plaque alongside other great men and women of English literature in Westminster Abbey, next September on the 100th anniversary of his birth. It was announced yesterday.

"At last the phoenix has risen and come into his own," Mrs Enid Goodland, curator of the Lawrence Museum at Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, said last night.

Mr Goodland, whose mother moved into the house in St Giles Street, Ealing, previously occupied by Lawrence's parents, has spent 20 years promoting his reputation.

"At last the world has accepted him," she said. "It has taken a long, long time. He did not like institutionalised literature — and I have thought very hard about whether he would have wanted to go into Poets' Corner."

"But I believe he would have done. He died heartbroken in 1930 because the world would not accept his ideas and writing and I have thought very hard about whether he would have wanted to go into Poets' Corner."

Precedents for giving a Poets' Corner plaque to a writer primarily valued as a novelist include Kipling and George Eliot.

Kinnock says cruise ban would not split Nato

From Derek Brown

The Labour leader Neil Kinnock yesterday bristled at the suggestion that his party's non-nuclear defence policy could weaken and divide the alliance.

Mr Kinnock, who was in Belgium for talks with the Nato political and military leadership, defended Labour's right, when returned to power, to scrap the British deterrent and remove cruise missiles and other US nuclear weapons.

"The US, he suggested, would not make the same mistake twice. "If cruise missiles and bases are withdrawn (from Britain), it would be foolish for the remainder of the defensive alliance to be put in jeopardy," he told reporters.

Labour was committed to continued membership of Nato, and would, in government, have a conventional policy, fully capable of defending Britain and keeping treaty obligations with Nato.

Mr Kinnock said that the potential dis-

Pilot 'provoked into killing wife'

An airline pilot, Peter Hogg, said yesterday that he was provoked into strangling his wife, Margaret, during an argument which ended with her lying dead in a pool of blood.

He told the Old Bailey that he was appalled when she clung to the floor and begged that he had meant to kill her. He said he was "quite ridiculous" to run two cars, one of which was used only to meet Mr Ryan, and he was cancelling the insurance. Her furious reaction was to come at him "very violently," Hogg said.

"She was shouting and when she got to me, she scratched my face and kicked me in the crutch, the testicles. It was extraordinarily painful. I hit her on the forehead because she ducked."

The law recognises that within every human being lie the fires of emotion, and you

just go far," he said. Hogg had been provoked for years by the "unfaithful and bad" behaviour of his wife — a "piece of excrement."

On the day Mrs Hogg died, she returned home after seeing her lover, Mr Graham Ryan, Hogg said on oath.

He told her it was "quite ridiculous" to run two cars, one of which was used only to meet Mr Ryan, and he was cancelling the insurance. Her furious reaction was to come at him "very violently," Hogg said.

"She was shouting and when she got to me, she scratched my face and kicked me in the crutch, the testicles. It was extraordinarily painful. I hit her on the forehead because she ducked."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man dies in blast

ONE MAN was killed and two others injured in an explosion at a British Gas plant, Westfield Development station in Fife yesterday, writes Jean Stead. The station is a demonstration plant for the extraction of gas from coal as a long term substitute for natural gas. Some of the gas has been fed into the plant.

About 170 are employed at the plant but only 30 were present at the end of the night shift when the explosion occurred, killing Mr Pat Hamilton, aged 53, of Lochgelly.

A British Gas inquiry into the explosion has started.

Three held after robberies

ARMED police were involved in a high-speed car chase in Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire, on Tuesday night after a series of robberies and shootings, the first from moving car which shattered the windows of an occupied house.

Soon after another shot was fired during an attempted robbery at an off-licence. No one was hurt and nothing was stolen. Two further armed robberies were reported shortly after, where a total of £470 was taken. Three men were helping police with inquiries yesterday.

Siamese twin girls improving

HOPE was increasing yesterday for Siamese twin girls Holly and Carley who are seriously ill after an operation to separate them.

Holly, who has a normal heart, was said to be continuing to make good progress at Great Ormond Street's hospital in London. Her sister, Carley, who has a heart defect and whose condition has caused greatest concern, was also showing slight improvement. They were born on Friday.

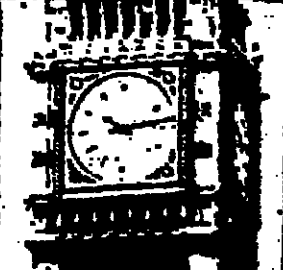
Downstairs on the fluoride front Mr Golding, having treated the House to his views on the weight of parliamentary business in the Lords, was engaged on an analysis of the meaning of the word "full" as employed by Bacon, Pevsey, Sherlock Holmes and other authorities.

In taking an amendment calling for a full report, he was asked what exactly he meant by "full"? He had to confess he was not quite sure.

In that case, the Speaker suggested, shouldn't he withdraw his amendment? Mr Golding was adamant. "Nowhere is it laid down in Standing Orders," he said, "that you must know what you are talking about when you are speaking to the House. If that were the rule, there would be silence."

After 20 hours' debate you could just about discern a third reading vote on the horizon. A few brave souls were still clapping away.

Odd, come to think of it, that both these marathon performers come from Staffordshire constituencies. Could it be something in the water?



David McKie

The long day of Ivan the terrible

IT may have been Wednesday in the rest of the world yesterday but in the House of Commons they never got further than Tuesday.

Indeed, as Labour's master wordsmith, John Gidding rolled effortlessly into his second day of debate, he began to fear that it was going to be Tuesday for ever.

But that is the way Parliament works. Until one day's business is complete, the next day cannot start. They said, the clock, but they can stop the calendar.

Some people yesterday found that arrangement rather tough. Don Dixon (Labour, Jarrow) for instance, Wednesday, he said, was his birthday. But now Wednesday had been obliterated. Did that mean he'd have to send his birthday presents back?

In theory it was tough on the Government too, since with Tuesday's fluorous battle still ranging at 3 o'clock they lost Wednesday's debate on the Interception of Communications Bill.

But they didn't look too dejected. Had the Bill been proceeded with, they'd probably just have swapped one exercise in obstruction for another, since the Bill signalled its total unreadiness to proceed to soon after the publication of the Bridge Report.

As it was, Labour could thank the dedicated group of Tory backbenchers who were blocking the Fluorous Bill for achieving the postponement which the Government had deduced them.

Ivan Lawrence (C. Burton) told all. Having risen at 12.30 a.m. he didn't finally sit till 9.35 after the longest continuous Commons speech of the century. And oddly enough, when he did, it

came as a bit of a shock. Only moments before, John Gidding had been complaining that in all this time Mr Lawrence had not yet come round to the amendment he was meant to be discussing.

The Health Minister, Kenneth Clarke, who had been on the bench most of the night, could only assume Mr Lawrence was leaving to pursue his distinguished career at the Bailey. "I trust a long and hard-fought trial lies ahead of him," he added balefully.

But Mr Lawrence squeezed in another 40-minute contribution before he left and there were plenty more Tory backbenchers eager to pitch in behind him.

Meanwhile, Labour's Willie Hamilton was engaged on his own anti-Lawrentian bid to hold up Enoch Powell's Unborn Children (Protection) Bill which was making its first appearance in committee.

Mr Powell wanted the committee to sit not just on Wednesday morning but on Wednesday evenings too, from 4.30 till goodness knows when. Bad enough Mr Hamilton thought, but the Bill had been spirited so swiftly and surreptitiously into committee; but to impose this Draconian regime was outrageous.

Mr Powell, too, though declaring the Government's absolute neutrality, thought Mr Powell had been "pretty precipitate and when the sittings motion was taken, he voted against it."

Mr Powell's impressively superior numbers in this committee saw him home.

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The trial continues today.

Activists disrupt rate-cap protest

By John Carvel, Local Government Correspondent

A large TUC demonstration in London against the Government's rate-capping policies was disrupted by about 100 activists yesterday.

They tried to interrupt a speech by the TUC general secretary, Mr Norman Willis, at a rally in the Greater London Council car park.

The demonstrators, estimated by its organisers to number 60,000 and by the police at 24,000, was part of a national "democracy day" protest at the Government's use of laws to force councils to cut spending and increase rents.

Labour councils which have been rate-capped or subjected to severe grant penalties if they over-spent met today to discuss their budgets.

During yesterday's rally, TUC stewards struggled to hold back the activists who taunted Mr Willis with cries of "scab" and pelted him with cans and pieces of wood.

Police said they were asked to stand by, but needed to take no action. Mr Willis continued his speech attacking the rate-capping policy and the audience roared when he was succeeded at the podium by Mr David Blunkett, the leader of Sheffield council.

The demonstrators attacking Mr Willis had marched behind a banner from the Arnhorpe Colliery, but TUC organisers thought only a few miners were involved in the disturbance. Witnesses suggested that tempers may have been inflamed by stewards' earlier attempt to prevent the Arnhorpe banner being



Battle positions: A helmeted demonstrator and smiling protester join the rally held in Manchester, where traffic was brought to a standstill. Picture by Don McPhee

The London demonstration included tustarts from Edinburgh and Sheffield, a bus from Leicester, and a series of impressive floats including one depicting Margaret Thatcher axing down a community centre.

Today's rate meetings are expected to see Leicester, Thamesdown, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool, and the London boroughs of Camden, Greenwich, Hackney, Islington,

Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, and Haringey pass motions that they find it impossible to pass a rate under the terms of the Government's new law. It would be the largest simultaneous municipal defiance yet seen.

The metropolitan counties of South Yorkshire and Merseyside are expected to set a legal rate, but to contrive to escape by making the spending cuts which ministers believe

that rate would imply. The position in the GLC and ILEA is confused. ILEA councillors are meeting this morning and their budget meeting may last so long that the GLC will have to postpone discussions until tomorrow.

The legal position of the Labour councillors has been complicated by a High Court declaration won by an SDP candidate who last week failed to win a byelection against Labour in Hackney.

Mr Justice Mann has said that Hackney council must make a lawful rate; that this must not exceed the Government spending limit; that it would be unlawful for the council to continue to collect combined rent and rate payments from council tenants if no rate had been set; and that if the council fails to make a rate, it cannot borrow money in anticipation of its 1985/86 rate income.

This declaration does not have the force of an order and Hackney councillors would not be in contempt of court if they ignored it. Hackney Labour group earlier agreed a tough no-rate resolution. The group was meeting last night to review its position.

Other demonstrations were organised yesterday in Leicester, Wigan, and Nottingham by the public service union, NUPES. Its general secretary, Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, said the turnout showed the broad base of resistance "to the Tories' pet package of rate-capping, abolition and privatisation."

An estimated 10,000 people marched through Manchester bringing city centre traffic to a standstill.

Leader comment, page 12

Couples bring in babies without entry permit

Airports turn blind eye on adoption smuggling

By Malcolm Dean

Immigration officers have been instructed by the Home Office to turn a blind eye to British childless couples arriving at UK airports with a foreign baby they intend to adopt.

Officially, childless couples should have obtained a temporary entry permit before returning to the UK with a child whom they wish to adopt. The procedure was set up to protect the interests of children and ensure that couples who would make unsuitable adoptive parents to foreign children are weeded out. The procedure involves a home visit from social workers.

As the number of babies available for adoption has declined over the last decade, the number of couples who have begun to look abroad for adoptive children has increased.

Only about 50 couples a year use the formal procedure. Adoption workers believe there are many more who are using the unofficial route.

The couples still need to apply to the UK courts for an adoption order on their return but once a foreign child has been in the care of a couple for a period, it makes it much less likely the court will turn down their application. The only options remaining to the court are a deportation order

on the child or for the child to be taken into the care of a local authority.

Adoption workers initially believed that the 1975 Children Act, which prohibits private adoption placements except between relatives, would shut this loophole but the law does not extend to couples who acquire the custody of a child overseas.

As long as the couples have the correct exit papers from the country in which they collected the baby, they are being granted temporary entry permits by the immigration officers here.

The unofficial practice has been known by adoption agencies for some time but they have kept quiet because of the risk of encouraging further abuse. They now believe it has become too well known for them to remain silent any longer.

One embarrassing fact which the disclosure creates for the Home Office is the contrast in their immigration procedures between the ease with which white couples returning with black babies are being admitted and the difficulties which Asian couples attempting to bring their own children to Britain face.

Mr Tony Hall, director of the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, the umbrella group for adoption agen-

cies, said yesterday that the issue had been raised with officials from the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social Security and was under review.

"One obvious anomaly is that it is illegal to provide advice or assistance to childless couples about intercountry adoption except through an agency but the act itself is not illegal," he said.

Unlike many European states, the UK does not have an agency which provides an intercountry adoption service.

Mr Hall said: "There are several reasons why there have always been reservations about intercountry adoptions in the UK. The first is the danger of exploitation. Many childless couples are desperate: many people in the Third World are poor. The temptation for Third World parents to breed children for adoption is one obvious danger."

A second reservation is that intercountry adoption is expensive and means the service is restricted to the rich. Money has never been the best criterion for judging whether people will be suitable parents.

"There is the further problem of the difficulties and sensitivity which is needed in bringing up a child of a different race outside its own ethnic community."

79pc budget inquiry ordered by Younger

By Jean Stead

The Secretary for Scotland, Mr George Younger, is to hold a public inquiry into Edinburgh District Council's decision to break his rates limits.

The inquiry, to be held after Easter, will be the first of the actions which Mr Younger said he would take against the council if it failed to keep within the legal spending limits.

Edinburgh voted to raise its rates by 79 per cent on Tuesday night, and is increasing its overall spending by 45 per cent.

A dustcart loaned by Islington council, north London, toured Edinburgh yesterday decorated with slogans advertising a better life for the city because of the rate increase.

The budget was passed after more than 10 hours of debate. The city has raised £2.8 million rate for 1985-86, up from £2.1 million in 1984-85, Mr James Burnett, the secretary of the Labour group, said that Edinburgh was leading the way for all local authorities hampered by government restrictions on their budgets.

The council intends to spend most of the £18 million gross budget on its decaying houses and recreation. The Edinburgh Festival budget will be increased to £585,000. Mr Burnett said that the increased rate

would work out at £1 per week for each household. "We shall not consider we have acted illegally until we have actually refused to obey the order of the court," said Mr Burnett.

The Scottish Secretary has had powers to rate-cap over-spending councils in Scotland since 1982, and these have been recently strengthened.

Mr George Younger said: "I would have the power, if the rate set is excessive, to instruct the council to reduce its rates and return that money to the ratepayer. In many cases in Scotland, there has been consistent over-spending over many years. The local authorities are not republicans on their own, they are subject to Parliament."

The Labour council is claiming that it has inherited a budget that was too low. Just its Tory predecessors. Glasgow has also increased its rates by over 50 per cent, but says it has not acted illegally, while Dundee and Aberdeen have voted to remain within the Government's spending limits.

Shilling yesterday voted to increase its rate fund contribution to £60,000, the housing budget from £2.25 million to £1.17 million, although the finance director said he thought it did not breach the overall spending limits.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ejected pilot dies

The pilot of an RAF Lightning died after ejecting from his plane as it crashed into the sea 18 miles off Spurn Point, Humberside, yesterday. The pilot, from RAF Coltishall, found him dead in his inflated dinghy.

Flying Officer Ramsay, who was single, was based at RAF Binbrook, Lincolnshire. He was taking part in a training exercise.

Double arson raid on court

ARSONISTS have struck for the second time in four days at Wood Green Crown Court in north London, causing thousands of pounds of damage. The building was broken into on Tuesday night in the same way arsonists entered at the weekend by smashing a large pane of glass in the front door with a brick.

Standing order for Speaker

THE Commonwealth's longest serving parliamentary speaker, Sir Charles Kerruish of the House of Keys on the Isle of Man, resigned briefly yesterday to become an unsuccessful candidate for the position of Executive Council chairman, the Manx prime minister, Sir Charles, aged 67, was reinstated as speaker, the position he has held since 1968 after Dr Edgar Mann, the former head of the Manx Finance Board won the chairmanship election with 15 votes, four more than Sir Charles.

Vigilante set out for muggers

A MUGGING victim told detectives he turned vigilante and carried a loaded pistol to track down his attackers on the London Underground. David Underwood, aged 25, of Duncombe Hill, Dulwich, was jailed for 21 years at the Old Bailey yesterday when a "mittit stealing a pistol from a parked car and carrying a loaded gun" was imposed because of a previous prison sentence.

Funereal rebuke for scruffs

By Marilyn Halkail

SCRUFFY clergy, wilting flowers, torn prayer books and requests for pop songs in crematorium chapels are among the causes of tensions at funerals, according to a national cemeteries report on bereavement says today.

A working party, chaired by the Suffragan Bishop of Dorchester, the Right Reverend Commander, also criticised the shabby furnishings sometimes found in churches and cemetery and crematorium chapels.

One of the 12 members of the working party said yesterday he had sometimes needed to remove lawnmowers and other equipment before conducting cremation services.

The report adds that heating and cleaning were sometimes inadequate; paths to gravesides were not always tidy and some funeral attendants needed reminding to be "suitably and reverently dressed."

Bishop Meyer said: "We also had some funeral directors who said to us they had one or two scruffy clergy who turned up and took funerals."

The news conference called to launch the report heard of pop songs being requested at funerals and of clergy who drew the line at searching records of Handel's "Largo."

Seven Christian denominations were represented at the working party which spent five years compiling advice for their fellow clergy. Funeral directors and crematorium and cemetery staff. It says there is more need for co-operation between the different churches, and recommends minimising differences between funeral fees charged by different denominations. Clergy are asked to give more time to the bereaved families who do not attend their churches. Crematorium chapels should cater for everyone in the community, including agnostics and non-believers. Crematorium chapels should be open to the public, including agnostics and non-believers. Crematorium chapels should be open to the public, including agnostics and non-believers.

It's spring time for Deposit Bond investors.

12%

PROSPECTUS

1. National Savings Deposit Bonds (bonds) are Government securities issued by the Treasury under the National Loans Act 1968. They are registered on the National Savings Stock Register and are subject to the Statutory Regulations relating to the National Savings Stock Register for the time being in force, so far as they are applicable. The principal of and interest on bonds are a charge on the National Loans Fund.

PURCHASE

2.1 Subject to a minimum purchase of £250 (see paragraph 5) a purchase may be made in multiples of £50. The date of purchase will for all purposes be the date of payment is received, with a completed application form, at the National Savings Deposit Bond Office, a Post Office transmitting National Savings Bank business or such other place as the Director of Savings may specify.

2.2A certificate will be issued in respect of each purchase. This certificate will show the value of the bond and its date of purchase. This certificate will be replaced on each anniversary of the date of purchase, and on part repayment in accordance with paragraph 5.2, by a new certificate showing the updated value of the bond, including capitalised interest.

MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM HOLDING LIMITS

3.1 No person may hold, either solely or jointly with any other person, less than £250 in any one bond or more than £50,000 in one or more bonds. The maximum holding limit will not prevent the capitalisation of interest under paragraph 4.3 but capitalised interest will count towards this limit if the holder wishes to purchase another bond. Bonds inherited from a deceased holder will count on such bonds will not count towards the maximum limit. Bonds held by persons as trustees will not count towards the maximum which may be held as trustee of a separate fund or which he or she may hold in a personal capacity.

3.2 The Treasury may vary the maximum and minimum holding limits and the minimum initial purchase from time to time, upon giving notice, but such a variation will not prejudice any right enjoyed by a bond holder immediately before the variation in respect of a bond then held by him.

INTEREST

4.1 Interest will be calculated on a day to day basis from the date of purchase up to the date of redemption. Subject to paragraph 4.2 interest on a bond will be payable at a rate determined by the Treasury which may be varied upon giving six weeks notice.

4.2 The rate of interest on a bond or part of a bond repaid before the first anniversary of the date of purchase will be half the rate determined by the Treasury in accordance with paragraph 4.1, unless repayment is made on the date of the bond's maturity.

4.3 Interest on a bond will be capitalised on each anniversary of the date of purchase without deduction of income tax, but interest is subject to income tax and must be included in any return of income made to the Inland Revenue in respect of the year in which it is capitalised.

REDEMPTION

5.1A holder must give three calendar months' notice of any application for redemption before redemption but no prior notice is required if application is made on the date of the sole bond holder. Any application for redemption of a bond must be made in writing to the National Savings Deposit Bond Office and be accompanied by the current investment certificate. The period of notice will be calculated from the date on which the application is received in the National Savings Deposit Bond Office.

5.2 Application may be made in accordance with paragraph 5.1 for repayment of part of a bond, including capitalised interest, but the amount to be repaid must not be less than £50, or such other figure as the Treasury may determine from time to time upon giving notice. The balance of the bond remaining after repayment, excluding interest which has not been capitalised, must be not less than the minimum holding limit which was in force at the date of application. Where part of a bond has been repaid a new certificate will be issued and the remaining balance will be treated as having the same date of purchase as the original bond.

TRANSFERS

6. Bonds will not be transferable except with the consent of the Director of Savings. The Director of Savings will, for example, normally give consent in the case of devolution of bonds on the death of a holder but not to any proposed transfer which is by way of sale or for any consideration.

NOTICE

7. The Treasury will give any notice required under paragraph 3.2, 4.1, 5.2 and 8 in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes (or in any manner which they think fit) if notice is given otherwise than in the Gazette, it will as soon as reasonably possible thereafter be recorded in them.

GUARANTEED LIFE OF BONDS

8. Each bond may be held for a guaranteed initial period of 10 years from the date of purchase. The rate of interest will continue to be payable in accordance with paragraphs 4.1 and 4.3 until the redemption of the bond. The bond may be redeemed either at the end of the guaranteed initial period or on any date thereafter, in either case upon the giving of six weeks' notice by the Treasury. The Director of Savings will write to the holder before redemption, at his last recorded address, informing him of the date of redemption.

Competitive interest.

Interest is calculated on a daily basis, and is credited in full on the anniversary of your deposit. It is subject to tax if you are a taxpayer. From time to time the interest may vary, so the rate can be kept competitive. We give six weeks' notice of any change.

How to buy

Almost anyone can invest in Deposit Bonds—personal investors, including children and two or more people jointly, and trustees, companies, clubs, voluntary bodies, etc.

As a personal investor, you can buy in two ways. You can send the application form below direct to the Deposit Bond Office—make out your cheque (not cash) to 'National Savings'.

Or you can ask for a combined prospectus/application form at a post office and make your deposit there. If you pay by cheque, make it out to 'The Post Office'.

Trustees, companies, voluntary bodies, etc, should use the application form below.

Interest will be earned from the day you buy your bond at the Post Office or, if you use the application form below, the day your deposit is received at the Deposit Bond Office.



DEPOSIT BOND

NATIONAL SAVINGS DEPOSIT BOND—Application to purchase

To the Deposit Bond Office, Dept. 613 National Savings, Glasgow G3 7NS.

I/We accept the terms of the Prospectus and apply for a bond to the value of £

Please use CAPITAL letters

Signature(s) First name(s) Myself/Us

Address(es)

Postcode

Name and address to which DEPOSIT BOND SHOULD BE SENT (Complete only if different from first address above)

Name

Address

Postcode

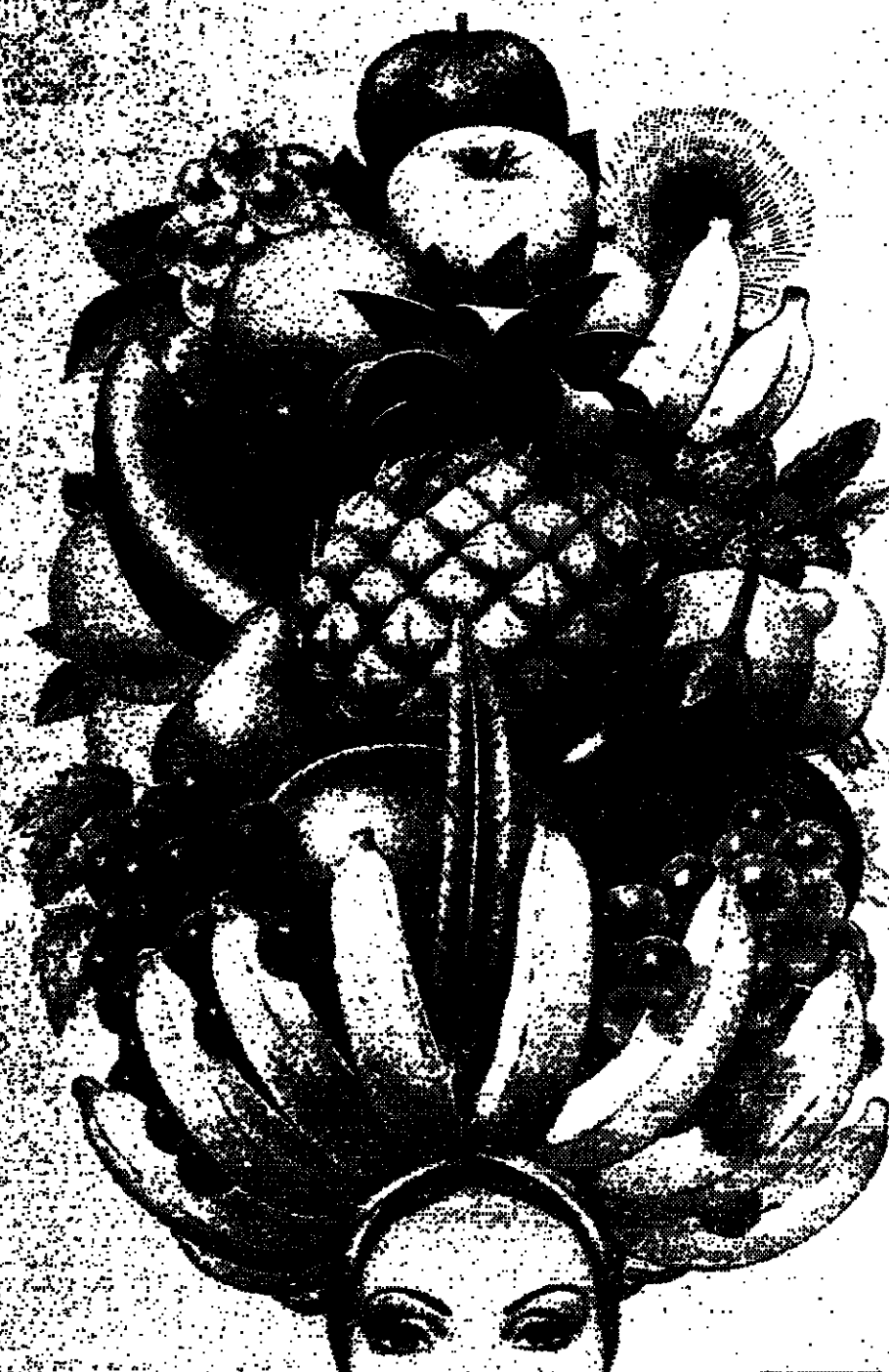
Do you already have a National Savings Deposit Bond? YES ☐ NO ☐ (Please tick as appropriate)

Signature(s)

Date

Note: If the Bond is to be held jointly all the parties must sign above. Persons signing for children under 7 should also state relationship here.

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Red Sea meeting agrees to support dialogue with US

Mubarak and Hussein play down their differences

From Ian Black in Baghdad, Egypt

Egypt and Jordan both support a dialogue between the US and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and insist that only the PLO can represent the Palestinians in Middle East peace negotiations, President Mubarak and King Hussein said yesterday.

At a press conference after five hours of talks in the Egyptian Red Sea resort, the two leaders sought to play down apparent differences between their respective approaches to the search for peace talks.

The fact is that we and Jordan are completely agreed on our points of view, Mr Mubarak said. "Let us see a dialogue start between the US and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation."

The talks here were the first between the two heads of state since the Egyptian leader proposed last week that step by step talks be held, first between a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the UN and later with Israel.

The suggestion caught Jordan by surprise and appeared to conflict with its support for an international peace conference on the Middle East involving the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The US and Israel have both rejected such an approach.

President Mubarak's feelings that the dialogue he suggested is a vital element for progress, the king said. Their comments at the press conference conformed to statements by senior officials in Cairo and Amman that the differences between the two sides are on tactics rather than substance.

Both leaders were at pains to stress that only the PLO could represent the Palestinians in any form of peace talks. "I have not altered my position and feeling that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the people of

Palestine," King Hussein said. Mr Mubarak echoed this view and denied that he had ever suggested that Palestinians who were not members of the guerrilla organisation could take part in negotiations.

King Hussein said that the agreement on a joint negotiation strategy signed by Jordan and the PLO last month remained unchanged, although certain "clarifications" had been made. "These do not change the substance of the agreement," he said.

The pact commits the PLO to the principle of land in exchange for peace with Israel, but it falls short of explicit recognition of the Jewish state.

Yesterday's talks preceded President Mubarak's visit to Washington at the end of the week when he is expected to seek large amounts of economic aid for Egypt and discuss the latest moves towards negotiations. Both leaders said they believed that progress now depended on moves by the US.

If this opportunity is not exploited, King Hussein warned, "this will be the last chance."

The extensive publicity given to yesterday's summit meeting was clearly intended to stress the commitment of both sides to continuing the recent momentum in the search for peace even if substantial — if not insuperable — difficulties lie ahead.

The king and his entourage were given a red carpet reception at the dusty and windswept military airfield here. The dilapidated terminal building was festooned with Arabic banners greeting "the great Arab commander," and praising the meeting of Arab brotherhood and solidarity.

The two heads of state were meeting for the fourth time since Jordan restored diplomatic relations with Egypt last September, breaking the Arab League quarantine imposed on Cairo when the late President PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the people of



Peacemakers? (top left, clockwise): Shimon Peres, King Hussein, President Mubarak, Yasser Arafat. (Right): Israeli withdrawal continues at Lake Qarroun, South Lebanon

Wounded and wary, America takes to sidelines

From Washington, Alex Brummer analyses the Reagan Administration's diminishing role in the Middle East

DESPITE the urgent pleas of President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, and other moderate Arab leaders for a more active American diplomatic role in the Middle East, the US, wounded and wary, remains on the sidelines. It is prepared to "reengage" only when the Arabs have agreed a common approach.

His public comment about recent peace moves, potentially the most promising since President Anwar Sadat flew to Jerusalem, has been markedly downbeat. There have been no headline-grabbing shuttle, special envoys, or presidential broadcasts. New arms sales to the Gulf states are on hold and likely to remain so for some considerable time (for domestic political reasons) and even emergency economic assistance to Israel is in temporary abeyance.

Whereas, less than a year ago, President Reagan was declaring Lebanon an area of vital interest to the US, the Americans are now humiliated bystanders as the Israelis beat their retreat from southern Lebanon leaving behind a Shi'ite population rendered hostile by the "iron-fist" of Israeli occupation.

Far from weakening the Soviet Union's hold in Syria, as Mr Alexander Haig, the former Secretary of State, had once hoped, the US and allied withdrawal followed by the Israeli pullout from Lebanon must be considered the Kremlin's strategic gain.

While senior state department Middle East specialists would like to be closely involved in the excitement and challenge of a fast moving series of peace plays in the region, they are being forced by political circumstance into restraint.

The President, at his last news conference, let rip against the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua and praised the super dollar, but skirted questions on the Middle East as if they were the plague. His Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, is finding the dialogue with the Russians in Geneva plain diplomatic sailing after the demise of his much vaunted Israeli-Lebanese peace deal.

The stain of the Administration's role in Lebanon, the unfulfilled promises to the American people and the US's friends in the region, lives on. While former State Department officials such as Harold Stander (now at the American Enterprise Institute), who played a key role in the five Israeli-Arab agreements concluded in the 1970s, are urging that Mr Reagan and his Middle East experts jump into the swirling waters—the present team appears afraid to even dip their toes.

This uncharacteristic caution by an administration with a history of more robust diplomatic moves in the region—from the Gulf War to the Sudan—does not mean that there is a lack of confidence in the process underway in the Middle East.

To the contrary, senior officials appear positively buoyed by developments in Mr Shimon Peres's Israel, within the PLO in Egypt, and in Iraq, which they believe has abandoned the rejectionist front. Rather the

public reticence reflects a lack of confidence in themselves: a sort of fatalistic belief that too high a US profile would be to no one's advantage.

It is a respectable case and one made by some European diplomats in Washington who are showing unusual patience with the Americans.

It is argued in some quarters that too much American involvement would lead Syria, and the Palestinians under their control, to step up the military/terrorist offensive against peace, even though the Vienna talks between the US and Soviet Union have opened a fresh channel through which they could communicate their aims in the region.

Indeed, if one listens carefully to American policymakers, they can use his 25-months as Prime Minister to change the shape of Israeli politics so that the Labour Party is the dominant force in the coalition and the country even after the scheduled change over to Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the rightwing Likud leader.

American officials are also encouraged by Mr Mubarak's emergence as a force for peace since his reconciliation with King Hussein. "Egypt is seeking to play a bridge role and wants to see a broadening of the peace process," one official observed.

It is argued that Egyptian officials are moving on two fronts to improve the prospects of peace: they are again reaching out to Israel — as demonstrated by last week's flight by Mr Osama El Baz (Mr Mubarak's right hand man) to Mr Peres's house in Jerusalem last week — and by

letting go of a series of trial balloons.

Although attitudes in Jerusalem and Cairo make peace moves propitious, the Americans fully realise that the important game is being played out between King Hussein and Mr Arafat and within the Palestinian political community. Officials here list a range of questions which must be answered before "phase one" (as they call it) of the "Arab dynamics" are over and "phase two," the negotiations, begin.

Among the questions left open by the Hussein/Arafat agreement, and still to be resolved, is which UN resolutions will be the basis of future negotiations. If it is 242, as King Hussein has told the Americans, fine. If not, there is no basis to work. Once this doctrinal battle of trading territory for peace is resolved, US policymakers believe that representation at the bargaining table may be the least of the difficulties.

All it requires is the Palestinian National Council, or PLO to authorise King Hussein and some West Bank leaders to negotiate on their behalf: it is 242 rather than who is in the delegation which poses the most serious problems.

It is only if the manoeuvrings between King Hussein and the Palestinians, and among the Palestinians themselves, appear to have reached the point that direct negotiations appear possible that the US would gallop forward.

Instead of the broad-based American diplomatic assaults which produced the disen-

agement accords after the 1973 war and more recently the delicate negotiations by Mr Philip Habib which brought the PLO evacuation from Beirut, the US is leaving the Arabs to do it themselves. The sight of President Reagan committing the US — on prime time television — to keeping the Marines in Lebanon until Syria and Israel withdraws still rankles.

What kind of peace negotiation do the Americans imagine in "phase two" of the latest efforts? They see three parties at the table with Israel waving around the Camp David accords, King Hussein with his tame Palestinians waving resolution 242, and the US with President Reagan's plan of September 1, 1982 — in which the West Bank is envisaged as an autonomous state, recognising the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, in association with Jordan.

To get such talks going, officials believe, Mr Reagan would be prepared to revive the abandoned office of special Middle East negotiator or envoy which was folded when its last incumbent, Mr Donald Rumfeld, went back to his corporate boardroom in Chicago, with his tail between his legs, after the US's ignominious election from Lebanon.

What has to be understood is that America's present reticence about the Middle East is deep rooted. At a time when the country feels good about itself and its leadership, Lebanon has been erased from official public view — American hostages and all. With its confidence in the region sapped, all the US can do is sit, wait, listen and hope.

Lebanon workers pulled out

Tel Aviv: Americans working with the UN in southern Lebanon have been pulled out to prevent them becoming targets of Shi'ite guerrilla attacks, the US Embassy said yesterday.

Mr Timor Goksel, spokesman for the 10,000 UN Truce Supervision Force in Lebanon, confirmed that about 30 Americans left the area on March 1.

"About 15 are US military observers and the rest are civilian technical and administrative workers," he said.

The Americans were now in the northern Israeli town of Nahariya, where they live when off duty.

Israeli state radio said they were pulled out because the UN feared they would be targets of Shi'ite Muslim guerrilla attacks. Embassy officials in Tel Aviv said the report was correct.

Mr Goksel said: "There was some information given to Unifil that such a step would be prudent and we took the advice."

The military observers belonged to the UN Truce Supervision Organisation, which has posts along the border between Israel and Lebanon.

Mr Goksel said they served with Unifil peacekeepers and could be reassigned to other UN posts in the Middle East, although no final decision had been made.

The pull-out coincided with a tightening of security around the US Embassy in Tel Aviv. Workers have reinforced street-front pillars with sandbags and erected thick concrete barriers.

Late last year, Israeli security forces foiled a plan by Palestinians from the occupied Gaza strip to attack the sea-front embassy. — Reuters.

Ceasefire in Gulf could be at end

Tehran: Iran traded threats with Iraq yesterday to shell cities and towns, jeopardising a limited agreement banning attacks on civilian targets.

In an escalation of the 53-month-old war, Iraq named 30 cities and towns it said it would attack in retaliation for Tuesday night's shelling of Basra, Iraq's second largest city. But more than six hours after the deadline given by Baghdad yesterday for the start of the attacks there were no reports that the threat had been carried out.

Iran countered with a pledge to strike blow for blow. The Prime Minister, Mr Mir-Hossein Mousavi, told the national news agency, Irna, that Iran has the power "to strike deep within Iraq."

Diplomats in Tehran said the sudden upsurge in shelling could mean an effective end to a limited "ceasefire" between the countries which bans attacks on civilians.

"Neither side will want to be the first to declare the ceasefire cancelled, but if the sides carry out their threats you could say the agreement is not worth the

paper it is written on," one diplomat said.

The agreement was negotiated by the UN Secretary-General, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, last June after a similar series of raids and retaliatory attacks in which Iraq said that hundreds of its civilians were killed.

Iran countered Iraq's air strikes on Monday against its unfinished nuclear plant at Bushehr, on the Gulf, and on a pipe-making plant at Ahwaz, about 45 miles from the southern Iraqi border, in which at least 11 people died. In retaliation, Iran on Tuesday night shelled Basra, a city of more than one million people at the head of the Gulf, after giving residents 12 hours' warning.

Mr Mousavi said that Iran did not have to bomb Iraqi cities, but was determined to do so after giving warning if such action were necessary to safeguard its civilians. "Can we remain silent in the face of such atrocities?" he asked.

President Ali Khamenei told volunteers leaving for the front that Iran "is capable of choosing targets in Iraq whose bombardment will inflict a heavier toll on the Iraqi regime." — Reuters.

Arafat tells of 'secret talks'

Paris: The chairman of the PLO, Mr Yasser Arafat is quoted in an interview this week as claiming Syria and Israel are holding secret negotiations "under US supervision and with the full knowledge of the Soviet Union."

He is quoted in the Arabic weekly Al-Watan al-Arabi, to be published here tomorrow, as saying that many meetings have already taken place between the Syrians and Israelis in Washington, Tangiers, Geneva and in Kenya "with the main aim of guaranteeing the security of the northern borders of Israel and preventing

the PLO returning to Lebanon."

Syria is backing the rebel PLO leaders who ousted Mr Arafat from northern Lebanon in December, 1983.

The Syrian Information Ministry said at the time the fact that after the first phase of the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon "Syria withdrew 12,000 men from the ceasefire line," Mr Arafat said.

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He sent messages to the foreign ministers of seven community countries, his spokesman said. Last month, he visited the other three — France, West Germany and the Netherlands.

Two-thirds of Israeli agricultural exports go to the Common Market. Officials here expect next year, will greatly reduce the level of those exports since the two countries grow similar products. — Reuters.

forces would only withdraw completely from Lebanon and particularly the strategic positions at Deir el Ahayer in the Bekaa valley and Mount Brook in the Chouf mountains, if the secret talks with Syria were successful.

And in Tunis, PLO sources say that Mr Arafat is expected to meet Jordan's King Hussein again after agreement on changes to their joint peace initiative.

The sources insisted that there was "permanent dialogue" between the PLO and the Jordanian government. — AP.

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Offers drawn up in 8 (eight) copies should be sent in a double sealed envelope by registered post; the outer envelope must be anonymous, bearing no company insignia or lettering from the tenderer's company, stating only "appel d'offres international ouvert no. ex-02/85 — Lot No. 1 — confidentiel — a ne pas ouvrir — Enafor — Department Achats — 1 Place Bir-Hakeim, El-Biar, Algiers, Algeria."

The final date for submission of tenders is set at 60 days from the publication date of this notice.

Any tenders arriving after this time will not be accepted.

Selection will be made within 180 days from the closing date of this call for tender.

Curfew put on village

Tel Aviv: The authorities yesterday clamped a curfew on a Palestinian village in the occupied West Bank and mounted house-to-house searches after a grenade attack on Israeli troops, an army spokesman said.

The grenade was thrown at an Israeli patrol in Sa'ir, near Hebron, on Tuesday night, but caused no casualties, he said.

In the afternoon, the army extended a curfew imposed immediately after the incident for 12 hours and searched houses for the attackers, the spokesman said. He could not confirm a report on Israel Radio that six villagers were injured in a fight with troops trying to enter their home.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, who leaves on Sunday for Brussels, appealed to the EEC yesterday to protect Israeli farm exports to the bloc after Spain becomes a member.

He sent messages to the foreign ministers of seven community countries, his spokesman said. Last month, he visited the other three — France, West Germany and the Netherlands.

Two-thirds of Israeli agricultural exports go to the Common Market. Officials here expect next year, will greatly reduce the level of those exports since the two countries grow similar products. — Reuters.

Journalists detained

From Julie Flint in Beirut

ISRAELI troops in southern Lebanon yesterday detained seven journalists working for western news organisations, enforcing for the first time a nine-day-old ban on Beirut-based reporters entering the occupied south.

They were detained in the Tyre area, although no-one witnessed the circumstances of the detentions. Five of the seven, including a photographer for Reuters news agency, were seen being taken away in two cars escorted by three personnel carriers. Two others, a television crew for United Press International Television Network (UPI-TV), told their Beirut office they were held for six hours before being released. They said no film was confiscated.

The journalists were later released.

The Israeli ban was announced on February 26, making serious-reporting of the Israeli occupation virtually impossible since it restricts coverage to Israeli-based journalists accompanied by a military escort and subject to military censorship. Reasons given for the ban included: "the physical safety of the journalists and the prevention of attacks by hostile elements."

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Offers drawn up in 8 (eight) copies should be sent in a double-sealed envelope by Registered Post; the outer envelope must be anonymous, bearing no company insignia or lettering from the Tenderer's Company, stating only "appel d'offres international ouvert no. ex-01/85 — LOT No. 1 — CONFIDENTIEL — A NE PAS OUVRIR — ENAFOR — DEPARTEMENT ACHATS — 1 PLACE BIR-HAKEIM, EL-BIAR, ALGER, ALGERIA."

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OVERSEAS NEWS

THE GUARDIAN Thursday March 7 1985 7

Hanoi tries to seize last Khmer resistance base

Thai air strikes kill 60 Vietnamese in battle for Tatum

From Nicholas Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok

Thai troops, backed by fighter-bombers and artillery, have killed more than 60 Vietnamese in fierce fighting in north-eastern Thailand, a senior army officer said yesterday.

Major General Narendol Dechadumrath said that Thai soldiers had counted more than 30 Vietnamese corpses on the barbed wire surrounding one of three battalions in Surin province about 210 miles north-east of here.

"We were able to kill 30 of them, right on the barbed wire," he said. Another 30 or more were killed near Hills 400 and 424.

The Vietnamese troops were trying to attack from behind the last important Khmer Rouge resistance base on the Thai-Kampuchean border, occupied by followers of Prince Norodom Sihanouk. The Thai called in air strikes against the intruders as they attempted to dislodge them from strategic hill positions close to the Tatum base.

The general put Thai losses at only two killed and 13 wounded.

In addition to some 800 troops said to have been involved in the incursion near Tatum, the spokesman said that another 200 Vietnamese troops had crossed the border further east in the province of Siakhet.

This second alleged incursion came during operations against Khmer Rouge positions close to their former base of Ban Charat, overrun by the Vietnamese earlier in their four-month-old dry season offensive.

Reports of the fighting, however, have been confused at times by contradictory Thai military and Sihanoukist sources say that Tatum remains in resistance hands.

But while a spokesman for the group maintained its fighters were still holding forward defence lines some five miles from the camp, other accounts have suggested that the Vietnamese have been battling forward towards a steep escarpment leading up to the camp.

The scale of the Vietnamese attack and the extent of the Thai military response could not be immediately confirmed by independent sources. Journalists have been barred from border areas.

"It looks as if there was an attack and that the Vietnamese came round behind Tatum and did some mining," one diplomat commented, citing reports that the Vietnamese had pushed one or two miles across the border. "I don't think anybody really knows how many Vietnamese are involved."

But Vietnamese forces have also driven out some 800 inhabitants of a small base belonging to the third resistance group, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, located at Sanror Changan in the central sector of the border.

The inhabitants have fled across the border into Thailand, joining some 50,000 Khmer civilians previously living at two evacuation sites dangerously exposed to stray shelling. They have now been moved deeper inside Thailand.

The latest Vietnamese attacks produced renewed sabre-rattling in Peking which yesterday condemned the incursion and warned that its troops along the Sino-Vietnamese border stood ready to "give a due lesson" to Vietnam.



Confrontation: Gendarmes hold back Kanaks in Thio, New Caledonia, as police searched yesterday for the murderers of a French youth

Pakistan 54 get life terms for 'conspiracy'

From Alex Brodie in Islamabad

All 54 defendants in a conspiracy case have been sentenced to life imprisonment—the most people convicted in one case in the country's history. Life was specified as rigorous imprisonment.

The accused were alleged to be members of the Al Zulfikar organisation, set up to exact revenge for the hanging by the military regime in 1979, of the former Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. They were accused of conspiracy in 1979 and thereafter, from time to time, inside and outside Pakistan, to murder "VIPs and

spies with those who did, by virtue of their alleged common membership of the Al Zulfikar organisation. A further 42, either dead or in exile, including the two Bhutto sons who founded Al Zulfikar, were named as co-conspirators.

Many of the accused had been in gaol for three years before they were put on secret military trial inside Kohat Lakpat gaol, Lahore, last August. The trial ended in December but judgment was reserved until the referendum and elections were out of the way. The elections were over last week.

More than two dozen of the accused had gone on hunger strike at one point, and at the end of the trial only four or five appeared in court—the rest boycotting proceedings, saying they despaired of a fair trial. Lawyers complained about their conditions, which included being held in chains.

Another conspiracy case, the so-called "Libyan connection" trial of 18 people, being held in similar conditions at Rawalpindi gaol, has also ended and judgment has been reserved.

In Haripur gaol, the trial has begun of 30 people accused with, in their absence, more than 50 "absconders" of forming a terrorist organisation. The Bhutto brothers are named in this trial as well.

President Chun sets Kim free

From Sam Jameson in Seoul

President Chun Doo Hwan yesterday removed a ban on participation in politics by the last 14 of the 567 politicians he purged in 1980, but kept legal restrictions on the activities of Mr Kim Dae Jung, the most prominent opposition leader.

However, he did free Mr Kim, aged 61, who was the opposition candidate in South Korea's last free and open presidential election in 1971, from the house arrest in which he was placed when he returned on February 8 from two years of self-imposed exile in the US.

He also hinted that more lenience toward Mr Kim, his most severe critic, might come later.

The announcement came as plainclothes police withdrew from checkpoints surrounding Mr Kim's home here. The opposition leader actually was among those for whom the ban was lifted, but his currently suspended 20-year-gaol sentence on charges of sedition will continue to prevent him from engaging openly in political activity.

The move, however, did grant freedom to participate in politics for the first time in nearly five years to all of the other famous figures of the 1961-1979 era of the assassinated President Park Chung Hee. Full political rights were restored to both Kim Young Sam, the last leader of the main opposition party under President Park, and Kim Chong Pil, the founder of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency and President Park's ruling party who was prime minister from 1971 to 1975.

Mr Kim Dae Jung later called the move "a first step in political development" toward democracy although "for me, as an individual, it has virtually no meaning." — Los Angeles Times.

HK poll test for Chinese

By John Gittings

HONG KONG votes today in local elections which take a cautious step towards the goal of representative government before the return of the colony to China in 1997.

More than 1.4 million registered voters will have the chance to vote for the territory's district boards which, although possessing limited powers, are the first steps in the new system.

How many people choose to go to the polls will be a vital statistic to demonstrate the credibility of the Government's new democratic urge. Despite a vigorous campaign to register, only half the eligible electorate is on the roll.

A poll of 40 per cent would be regarded as satisfactory — slightly higher than the turnout at the last more limited elections in 1982. Yesterday a small-scale official survey suggested the figure could even be lower.

A total of 501 candidates are standing in more than 150 small constituencies to fill 227 vacancies on the 19 district boards. There has been less of a rush into politics than expected from Hong Kong's new political groups which have emerged during the recent negotiations with China.

Many candidates represent traditional rural or urban organisations, but they do include more professionals than before as well as radical social workers.

The largest group comes from the business sector. The new district boards will form an electoral college which will meet in September to choose Hong Kong's first elected Legislative Council members. The process has been hurriedly improvised over the past year in an effort to get a democratic procedure on paper before the Anglo-Chinese agreement on the future goes into effect.

Muted victory for Gandhi at polls

From Eric Silver in New Delhi

Voters in 11 states from Sikkim in the north-east to Karnataka in the south-west reminded Mr Rajiv Gandhi yesterday that India is still not a one-party republic.

His Congress (I) reaffirmed its dominance over the Hindi-speaking heartland of north and central India in this week's state assembly elections, often with smaller majorities than it won in the Christmas general elections. But the rift between the centre and the periphery widened.

With most of the votes counted, the Janata opposition party seemed certain to retain power in Karnataka, where the popular Chief Minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, resigned after Janata was humbled by Congress in December. Yesterday's result was a vote of confidence in Mr Hegde, who had been threatened with dismissal throughout Mrs Indira Gandhi's last year.

It was also a sharp rebuff by the electorate to Mr Gandhi's campaign theme that states would fare better in competition for national resources if they returned Congress locally as well as in Delhi.

This refusal to be bribed or bullied was particularly marked in the south-eastern state of Andhra Pradesh, where the former film star Mr N. T. Rama Rao's Telugu Desam repeated its December success. Mr Rama Rao was ahead in all three seats he was contesting as an insurance against losing one of them.

Another regional party, the Sangram Parishad, was winning comfortably in the Himalayan state of Sikkim under the disaffected Congress leader, Mr Nar Bahadur Bhandari, who was dismissed from the chief ministership by Mrs Gandhi last year. Mr Bhandari's main support is believed to have come from the ethnic Nepalese majority in the former mountain kingdom, which India annexed 10 years ago.

Congress prestige received its severest challenge in the traditional churning ground of Maharashtra, where Mr Gandhi's candidates were given a hard run for their money by the Progressive Democratic Front, led by another Congress defector, Mr Sharad Pawar.

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ABBEY NATIONAL HIGHER INTEREST ACCOUNT



Mr Rajiv Gandhi: rebuke from electorate

Anti-fluoride MPs burn midnight oil

FLUORIDE

By Alan Travers

The Government last night firmly pushed ahead with the remaining stages of the Water Fluoridation Bill in the face of a sustained filibuster by about 30 Conservative MPs who forced an all-night sitting and the cancellation of yesterday's business.

The filibuster had started at 11.0 p.m. on Tuesday night and the business set down for the Commons yesterday was lost, including the Second Reading of the telephone tapping bill — the Interception of Communications Bill.

Most prominent among the Conservative rebels was Mr Ivan Lawrence, (C. Burton) who spoke for four hours and 23 minutes, one of the longest speeches on the floor of the House this century.

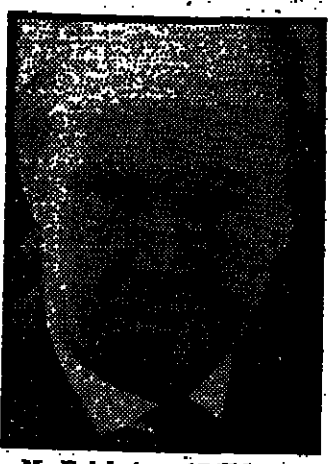
The bill's opponents had all night long on the floor of the House, but they had hoped to talk it out and force the Government to abandon the bill.

By early afternoon, yesterday, however, it became apparent that the Government was prepared to see the loss of the day's business in order to ensure that the Fluoride Bill became law. Part of the official Opposition, in the form of the veteran filibuster specialist, Mr John Giddings (Lab, Newcastle-under-Lyme) added his weight to the delaying tactics. Labour, who had been pushing for the phone tapping bill to be delayed, were not unhappy at the cancellation of the day's business.

The bill seeks to clarify the legal position of health authorities who wish to add fluoride to their local water supply and follows a Scottish High Court case, which questioned the legal basis of fluoridation.

Opposition to the bill centred on the alleged poisonous effects of fluoride and the issue of individual civil liberties.

Mr Lawrence began his marathon speech, when he inter-



Mr Fairbairn: 'Bill being brutalised through House'

vened on the report stage of the bill, to move an amendment. He began at 5.12 a.m. and sat down at 9.35 a.m. when he told MPs that he had only brought his speech to a close because, as a senior barrister, he had an appointment at the Old Bailey.

Mr Lawrence was sustained in his marathon effort by frequent interventions from Conservative anti-fluoride colleagues. Mr Tony Marlow (Northampton) and Mr Nicholas Fairbairn (Perth and Kinross), and he drew the support of Mr Golding, who himself delivered an 11-hour personal two years ago on the Telecommunications Bill in a Commons Standing Committee.

Mr Lawrence included in his speech the effects of fluoride on a wide range of products, including lettuce, cheese, Teflon coated pans, and American cigarettes. At the House had sat all night, it was still officially Tuesday in the Commons yesterday, and this led to some confusion in the Chamber. Mr Don Dixon (Lab, Jarrow) intervened at one point to tell MPs: "Wednesday happens to be my birthday," and he asked what he should do with his birthday present, now that his birthday, as far as Parliament was concerned, had disappeared.

During the night Mr Fairbairn, after five hours of debate on a particular clause, called for the bill's report stage to be adjourned to another day. He claimed the Government was trying to "brutalise the bill through the House against the consciences of their own supporters and against the decision of the electorate." The Government was using the "pay role vote" (i.e. ministers, whips and Parliamentary Private Secretaries) to force through the bill despite it being taken on a free vote of the House, he claimed. Replying, Mr Clarke made it clear that the Government was determined to proceed with the bill: "We have had a high quality of debate and I think we'll get it again when we get on to further amendments. I suggest we are making reasonable progress so far. The House should congratulate itself that we have already reached page one, line 15 of the bill."

That was after six hours of debate. By lunchtime yesterday, the Commons had reached the fourth set of amendments to be considered on the bill. At 4.25 p.m., after 17 hours of debate, the report stage of the bill was finally completed after a vote of 192 to 84 in the Government's favour.

The Third Reading of the bill was then begun. By lunchtime yesterday, the Commons had reached the fourth set of amendments to be considered on the bill. At 4.25 p.m., after 17 hours of debate, the report stage of the bill was finally completed after a vote of 192 to 84 in the Government's favour.

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It's a terrible rush for long-winded Ivan

By Penny Chorlton

TORY backbench MP and leading criminal barrister Mr Ivan Lawrence unwittingly chalked his name in the record books yesterday when he made the longest continuous speech this century on the floor of the House of Commons.

Mr Lawrence, furious with the government over its plans to put fluoride in the nation's drinking water, spoke for four hours and 23 minutes in what he apologised afterwards had been only a "limited" exposition of the case.

The MP for Burton took to the floor during the all-night Commons session shortly after 5 a.m. and as the sun rose over Westminster talked, virtually without interruptions, until 9.35 a.m.

At this point, Mr Lawrence, who is also a Queen's

Counsel, had to grab his coat and sprint a mile or two across town to the Old Bailey, where he was defending in a case involving Britain's biggest cash robbery. Six people are currently appearing in court 12 in connection with the £5 million robbery from Security Express's London headquarters two years ago.

"I had time to shave, but I haven't had breakfast yet — or lunch — or a cup of coffee," he said, during a five-minute interlude while everyone else was still at lunch.

"Yes," he said, it did sometimes get a bit frantic doing both jobs, but he loved every minute of it.

Looking a little red-eyed but displaying the utmost courtesy, Mr Lawrence said that he had only had to rise to his feet briefly during the

morning's court proceedings, his junior having done most of the talking.

Asked why his speech in the all-night sitting had taken so long, he said: "I didn't intend to speak that much. I was just moving an amendment which gave me an opportunity to putting on the record a reasonable amount of the case against fluoridation. This is a dangerous poison and there are many research papers which I decided to go through pointing this out."

Asked if any of his audience had nodded off, he said: "People fall asleep during my short speeches sometimes, so I expect one or two did drop off towards the end."

For his Commons marathon the MP's papers occupied almost the full length of the green leather bench, providing an endless source

of statistics with which to regale his audience.

Shortly after 8 a.m. the alarm on his wristwatch went off, causing some amusement as he explained that it was now past his normal time for getting up.

Mr Lawrence was not too chuffed with his new record. "It's not particularly enviable to have talked longer than anyone else," he said, the QC, whose recent clients, include mass-murderer Dennis Nilsen and gunman David Martin, confided: "Some of my clients appear to get the longest sentences."

The longest recorded Commons speech was by Henry Brongham, in 1828, when he spoke for six hours on the controversial issue of law reform. Lloyd George spoke on the Budget in 1899 for 4 hours 51 minutes. However, he took a half-hour rest in the course of his speech.



Mr Lawrence — red-eyed

Embryo ban bill improves chances of success

EMBRYO BILL

By Colin Brown

Supporters of the bill to ban experiments on embryos yesterday succeeded in doubling the amount of time which the measure will be given in its committee stage, improving its chances of becoming law.

The Health Minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke, who gave an assurance that the Government remained neutral on the Un-

born Children (Protection) Bill, voted against the motion allowing sittings to be extended into the afternoon and evening on successive Wednesdays.

The victory for supporters of the bill by 10 votes to five is likely to lead to the bill being debated late into the night as opponents attempt to block its passage.

The vote came after a protracted debate with the opponents led by the Shadow Health Minister, Mr Frank Dobson, protesting that they

had been given insufficient time to study the bill before the beginning of the committee stage.

The bill's sponsor, Mr Kenneth Powell (OUP, Down S) brought the bill forward by about six weeks by leapfrogging other back bench measures in the queue by dint of some nimble—but perfectly above board—manoeuvring.

Mr Dobson said, "They have not consulted at all. They have come to a conclusion and they wish to impose their own views on everyone else."

If the committee proceeded precipitately the Commons would be failing to carry out its scrutiny properly, said Mr Dobson, who demanded a postponement of the committee stage.

Mr Clarke was asked by a Tory opponent of the bill, Mr David Crouch (Canterbury) to explain the Government's position after Mr Clarke had said the Government was not against it.

Mr Clarke, who voted against the bill on the Second Reading in a free vote, said

the Government was remaining neutral. "I think I made it scrupulously clear that my vote was my own."

He added: "I think the sitting's motion today is a pretty precipitate one. From the point of view of the Government's business it is very unattractive to me as well."

He said he had been up all night on the Fluoridation Bill and the thought of giving up Wednesday mornings, afternoons and nights for the committee was "not one I find attractive."

'Gutted' bill angers conservation groups

WILDLIFE

By Martin Lister

The Government forced through a series of amendments to the Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Bill at its committee stage in the House of Commons yesterday, leaving only one clause unaltered and the other five either rewritten or removed completely.

Conservation groups were furious at what they saw as the virtual gutting of a private members' bill which had been tabled with the encouragement of Government ministers and had been promised their broad support. The Council for the Protection of Rural England described it as "a disgraceful performance."

The only clause that escaped unscathed was an amendment to close the two most glaring loopholes in the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1961 which allowed farmers to bulldoze wildlife habitats on their land even after they had been notified that they were to be protected.

The Government had let it be known that it would welcome a private members' bill to amend the Act and had provided the sponsor, Dr David Clark, the Labour MP for South Shields, with its own drafts for the first two clauses of the bill. At 11.15 p.m. on Tuesday night the Government withdrew support for the first clause on badger digging, which had been drafted by the Home Office, because it was

"unacceptable to the farming interest and the field sports interest," according to the Junior Environment Minister, Mr William Waldegrave.

Then by eight votes to seven the committee amended this clause so that badgers can only be culled if a badger is actually injured or killed. This was to accommodate for hunters who often dig out a badger's sett to find a fox that has gone to earth.

But conservation bodies were more concerned about the deletion of the fourth clause in the bill which would have put a duty on the Ministry of Agriculture to further the interests of conservation. At the moment the only legal obligation on the ministry is to consider the needs of food production.

This clause was drawn up by the Council for the Protection of Rural England and was backed by the National Farmers' Union and Country Landowners' Association as well as the conservation groups. Dr David Clark said it was "an absolutely vital clause which changes the whole direction of agricultural policy."

But the clause was opposed by the Junior Agriculture Minister, Mrs Peggy Fennell, as "a constitutional illegality which would seriously hinder the work of her department. It was defeated by eight votes to seven with one abstention from Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Conservative MP for Upminster.

A further clause to strengthen the powers to create nature conservation areas for marine wildlife was also deleted from the bill.

SDP survey confirms middle class appeal

By Paul Hayland

THE Social Democratic Party appeals to middle class voters only, and its members would not want the Alliance leaders to be the sole arbiters in choosing a partner for a coalition government, according to a survey published today.

The findings appear to confirm the SDP's worst fears that it is failing to attract broader support, and the party leader, Dr David Owen, may be disappointed by a significant opposition to the idea of forming a coalition government.

The survey was conducted by the SDP in Wales, which notes that although the sample is small compared to a national study it does provide a valuable indication as to members' attitudes.

Three-quarters felt that the party appealed to middle class voters only. Almost half of those questioned had a university degree, more than 20 per cent had teaching qualifications and two-thirds had attended grammar or private schools. The survey

concluded: "The party membership is without doubt drawn from the 'middle classes' of society."

Almost 90 per cent said it was important to maintain the SDP's identity as a separate party in the late 1980s and more than one-third did not wish the SDP to take part in a coalition government.

Given four options about how the decision on a coalition partner should be made after the next general election, only 15 per cent thought it should be left to the respective SDP and Liberal party leaders. A total of 48 per cent said the decision should be made by the Liberal and SDP MPs. 26 per cent favoured a referendum of Alliance party members and 13 per cent wanted a vote taken at a special Liberal/SDP assembly.

Only half those questioned believed that the SDP structure allowed members an adequate say in determining party policy. "This is not a convincing result in favour of the present system," the survey declared.

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An unlovable Little Fellow

by Barry Norman



Chaplin: His Life and Art, by David Robinson (Collins, £15).

WHEN Charlie Chaplin died Sir Laurence Olivier said of him: "He was, perhaps, the greatest actor of all time." Well, Olivier—himself widely regarded as the greatest of his contemporaries—is rather given to this kind of encomium. He also stated, posthumously, of Robert Donat that were it not for ill health "he would have had no peer throughout the world of acting."

Nevertheless, what he said about Chaplin merits serious consideration especially when taken in conjunction with Buster Keaton's assertion that Chaplin was "the greatest comedian that ever lived." Keaton, after all, knew a fair bit about comedy.

David Robinson, I suspect, would not violently disagree with either of these eulogists, although he is laudably sparing in his own use of superlatives in what is obviously a great labour of love. At the same time he is equally sparing in his criticism of Chaplin's work, which is a touch surprising in a critic often noted for his asperity.

Not that what we have here is a lengthy piece of hagiography. Far from it. It is, rather, a detailed, thoughtful and ultimately admiring analysis of the achievements of a man who, whatever his nagging faults, was unquestionably among the few film-makers to whom the words "artist" and "genius" could be applied without reservation.

The emphasis is on achievements, for Mr Robinson, arguing modestly that he is not

sufficiently versed in psychoanalysis to attempt such a task, does not try to interpret Chaplin's personality or his behaviour.

In a volume even lengthier than the subject's own extremely long autobiography it's not so much the life as the art that truly arouses the author's enthusiasm. Perhaps this is as it should be, although I should have welcomed, for example, some explanation—if not from Mr Robinson then from others who knew or were even married to Chaplin—of the fact that he was consistently attracted by very young girls. His first two wives were around sixteen, his third—Paulette Goddard—was a comparatively hag-ridden 21 and his fourth, Oona, was seventeen.

Now the stories of these marriages together with the other triumphs and disasters—accusations of Communism, messy divorces, paternal suits, massive tax wrangles—of a life so incident-packed that you wonder how the man ever found time to do any work are all faithfully recounted but, for the most part, little commented upon.

Of the break-up of Chaplin's second marriage (to Lita Grey) Mr Robinson says only: "Life can have been no easier for the unwelcome child bride than for her exasperated husband." Exasperated? Yes, I expect he was but who is to blame? He'd only married her because she was 16 and pregnant and the alternative to a wedding was a charge of statutory rape.

And then what are we to make of a man who professed devotion to his mentally sick mother yet delayed her joining him in California because her

presence might "depress and affect my work?"

My own, admittedly far less exhaustive, researches a few years ago into Chaplin's life led me to the conclusion that he was a ruthlessly self-absorbed man who would sacrifice anyone for his art. And perhaps that is why I've never found his Tramp, his Little Fellow, as appealing as most people do.

It seems to me that beneath the brilliant clowning and the pathos there lies a degree of coldness, of calculation, that makes him a winner who is only pretending to be a loser to grab our sympathy. I don't find the Little Fellow lovable; I find him alienating and Mr Robinson's book does little to alter that opinion.

Well, no matter for the author leaves us to make up our own minds about the man, his concern is primarily with the artist, whose universal appeal was such that he could justly claim to be more famous than Jesus Christ.

And it is here that the book's chief and considerable merit lies. Mr Robinson's meticulously detailed, lavishly illustrated—and, I might add, highly readable—examination of the professional persona, of the genesis and content of his films, of how and why they were made is full of insight and revelation.

Generous more work on the student and general readers alike. I am not so sure myself for a book of this size and priced at a fraction under £15 does as close to no justice to a student while scholars will go to the originals rather than a translation, and the general reader will find it a long row to hoe.

I come to the strange conclusion that the book was intended for me! I am duly grateful for it, and enjoy its individuality. An appetite for the language—a positive lust in the love affair—breaks through the restrained sur-

The Greek thing

by William Golding



Peter Levi
A History of Greek Literature, by Peter Levi (Viking, £14.95).

PETER LEVI'S book is remarkable for not being what it looks like. In the days when a nodding acquaintance with the classical languages was a social grace, laborious versions into prose, seldom accurate and never beautiful, were constructed for ladies and for those who were socially precluded from access to the originals.

Today a knowledge of those languages must be a private pleasure. Where learning Greek is no longer a duty it remains what it always was at the best, a love affair. The results of that affair are plain to see in this history.

Even so, five hundred pages of small print need some excuse. Professor Levi, "classical scholar, archaeologist and poet," is uniquely qualified to provide it. He translates simply and clearly. As far as I can tell he is always accurate. He is always simple and often beautiful—as a translator and as a poet. He is always accurate and often beautiful.

The publishers, hopeful as ever, advertise this book as one which will find a place on the shelves of scholars, students and general readers alike. I am not so sure myself for a book of this size and priced at a fraction under £15 does as close to no justice to a student while scholars will go to the originals rather than a translation, and the general reader will find it a long row to hoe.

I come to the strange conclusion that the book was intended for me! I am duly grateful for it, and enjoy its individuality. An appetite for the language—a positive lust in the love affair—breaks through the restrained sur-

Where his sensibility is not passionately engaged he can be pleasantly caustic. "In disenchanting moods even today it is possible for the layman used as a philosopher's punch ball to wonder whether philosophy is anything more than systematised bad manners." As for ordinary life does indeed say what it was felt but never so well expressed. All rhetoric and all oratory but the greatest of them all, the most of them, this in terms of information to noise among the Greek orators is terribly low, and their energy, the amount of energy wrapped up in their work which is unavailable for effective use is wastefully high.

He is particularly informative and entertaining when treating the less frequented centuries of Hellenistic Greece. Dear to his heart is Lucian, as he must be, modern in everything but his freedom from guilt. I suspect too that scholars find apart from his wit an additional charm in the evidence that Lucian has read the same books as they have. Captivated by this charm the poet, the professor and the scholar free themselves at a bound and employ their own mimesis in the highest reaches of critical appreciation.

"... the last Syrian prince of Commagene... let a monument at Adama... he was a Philip pappos after whom the hall of Philopappos is named and the garbled, white, wholly broken crown that hill is his memorial. Seen from a distance it has great charm and a position that makes it a romantic landmark. It has a crisscross of execution and some boldness of conception. In the history of Greek sculpture it has its place. Today it broods above the pinetrees, meditating the Parthenon. The words of Lucian are just such a monument."

Bohemia in exile

by W. L. Webb

The Engineer of Human Souls, by Josef Skvorecky, trans. Paul Wilson (Chatto/Hogarth, £9.95).

"TWILIGHT on the leeshore of a landlocked sea in Europe... my back to that hotel with the greenish mosaic around the big windows of the hotel cafe, windows with flowers etched in the glass, while a puddle of honey, trickled down the wall."

That's the beginning of The Bass Saxophone, a novella written by Skvorecky in the mid-sixties which magically unfolds a boy's epiphany of art and freedom in a small town trapped in the Nazi domination of Europe.

Twenty years earlier, still a student in Prague, he had written a marvellous young man's novel, The Cowards about jazz and girls and how the war came to an end in Kostelec, the same small town in north-eastern Bohemia which is really Skvorecky's home town of Nachod.

What we have now is partly a novel he had wanted to write for years, telling the tougher part of the story of his youth in Nachod-Kostelec: forced labour in the Messerschmitt factory, bungled

attempts at sabotage and the dire consequences, in reprisals, of a successful attempt; and perhaps the shadows cast before the coming of another new order to Czechoslovakia.

Unlike the earlier Kostelec stories, however, The Engineer of Human Souls was written in exile in Toronto, where he was driven by the annus mirabilis, annus horribilis of 1968, and that projected wartime story has expanded into something far more ambitious and problematic.

Even the barest catalogue of what it attempts is daunting. It is the story of his life and of our times seen through the eyes of someone who, as he wrote in a recent number of Granta, had already by 1968 "experienced all the existing political systems of twentieth-century Europe." It is an attempt at an anatomy of his nation's soul on the rack of history; also an anatomy of the exile's consciousness, and what it means to pass through the ideological looking-glass.

And it is a huge argument about how we read literature and what the writer does and is: not Stalin's soul-engineer, but rather, as he once said, that "writers aren't philosophers, they simply formu-

late in a better way what starlings twitter to each other across the rooftops."

The last enterprise gives him his title and the overall structure of seven long semi-chapters in which the same Danny Smiricky of the earlier tales is now teaching mostly classic American literature, as Skvorecky himself does, to baffled and beautiful Canadian children for whom history began, at the earliest, with the death of Janis Joplin. (His best bit of critical engineering is a frightening reading of Heart of Darkness as a prophecy of Stalinism.)

Listening wonderingly but without condescension to their natives he finds himself, sometimes in mid-sentence, back in one of the great American novels of the 1950s, back in the Messerschmitt factory lavatories two cultures earlier, or in a mountain hut lost to the world with the ghost of consumptive Nadia.

Consciousness must also accommodate the emigre world of the Benes Inn, where the pathos and fantasies and schizophrenia of Dotty and Mr Pehorsky, Veronica Pribat and Frank the writer, are then achieve that condition

aspired to of something like a good jazz break. And there are the letters from his Kostelec contemporaries, wry and pungent testimony to how it was under the Nazis and the Stalinists and the post-Stalinists in that remote invented republic with the comic opera name, voices thinning as they recede to Munich, to Israel, Australia, dying voices of a dead world.

For all its relevant tenderness, its jokes and insights, it's a painful, overburdened novel to read—the heroic labour of a tormented talent, a monument in limbo inscribed with some indelible sentences: "The real religion of life, the true idiosyncrasy of literature, can never flourish in democracies, in those boring kingdoms of the freedom not to read, not to suffer, not to desire, not to know, not to understand."

I hope it will nevertheless point a new generation to the other Kostelec tales, above all lead them into the honeyed space of the Bass Saxophone, where the world of young Skvorecky / Smiricky, in all its threatened particularity and sweetness and hard-won understanding, is alive for as long as people care to read and starlings twitter from the rooftops.

The arch and the good

by John Bayley

The New Collected Short Stories, E. M. Forster, with an introduction by P. N. Furbank (Siddhick and Jackson, £9.95).

RICKIE, the hero of Forster's novel The Longest Journey, writes little tales about Pan in suburbia which no publisher will take; his wife lays cotton threads between the leaves of the Bible; his daughter, in return, undisturbed, breaks recurring theme is the nature of the fictive in prose.

The Sinking of the Odradek Stadium is only the second of his novels to be made available in this country, but like all the other work I have seen by this talented, intelligent, and inventive American it asserts, through example, the value of the organised imagination and the remaining possibilities of the novel form.

A profoundly serious piece of nonsense—a book of existential charades for adults—it will undoubtedly have most appeal for his fellow writers. But the common reader is not left out in the cold by Mathews' brilliance, especially if he or she has something of a taste for intricate puzzles.

Paradoxically, the basic shape of the novel is traditional in the extreme, harking back to Richardson and Laclos in its use of the epistolary procedure. However, while one of the letters, written by Zary McCallister, a Miami librarian, writes plainly (if crazily) enough, the other, his Asiatic wife, one Twang Panatitapam, has considerable trouble refracting her perceptions through the English language.

Since together they are seeking to make their fortune by locating a treasure believed to have been lost off the coast of Florida in the sixteenth century, these problems of semantics become a source of much incidental comedy and ultimate tragedy. For the most part, the book is brilliantly conceived and written in an elegant mandarin style which transcends the author's ability to "do" the different voices.

That said, I must add that the Twang letters are initially about as hard to read as the muddiest bits of Finnegans Wake, but if the reader persists he will be rewarded, in my opinion, by a display of creative logic on the author's part which puts this book in the Lewis Carroll class. There is also a comic set-piece, describing a Mardi Gras in Miami, which is so good that it enacts in miniature all that Mathews seems to be trying to say about the relationship of imagination to reality, and of both to language.

But why should this universal and beneficial practice have to be justified? It is the puritan in Forster or in his editor? Furbank is on surer ground when he writes of the "effectiveness" of The Other Boat, the really powerful fantasy of an Indian army officer who is leading two lives—one on the deck of a F and O liner with his peers and another in his cabin with Cocoonat, an Indian half-caste.

In 1930 his novel-writing career is over, as he says in his diary that "two people pulling each other into salvation is the only worth-while theme I can find." Perhaps this was the reason for the success of The Other Boat in showing two people destroying each other.

Twenty-five years earlier the boy in The Celestial Omnibus had cried out that what he loved to read was always true, an unfashionable belief today but one that Forster's whole oeuvre in its curious way still exemplifies.

Siegfried rides again

by Norman Shrapnel

Diaries, 1923-1925, by Siegfried Sassoon, edited and introduced by Rupert Hart-Davis. (Faber, £12.95).

NOT MANY modern poets would be able to tell their diaries that they had just ridden in a fashionable point-to-point and found themselves "going along a few lengths behind the Prince of Wales."

It was too unsurprising a part of Siegfried Sassoon's mixed-up routine to be any special boast. He would think nothing of spending the afternoon with E. M. Forster and then dining with a polo-and-poker set by whom a Passage to India, on many knowing lips at the time, might well have been taken for some smart new gaming-club.

Poets and polo-players, riders to hounds and Bloomsbury savants, painters and actors, top musicians and architects, Sassoon seems to have known them all. More

remarkable even than this mix of brows and life-styles was his capacity to meet on the friendliest terms writers who, if they could help it, would never meet each other. Weis and Graves and Hardy, Woolf and Bennett, Georgians and Sitwells—none of them seemed to throw this gifted gentleman-jockey who, was himself ready celebrated as a poet, (The Memoirs of a Fox-hunting Man were yet to come.)

But was he a "modern" poet? Everyone knew him as the writer of the war poem Everyone Sang; but Eliot baffled him, and with the drooping reputation of the Georgian romantics it must have seemed to many, Sassoon included, that everyone had suddenly stopped singing. Yet half of him knew what had happened: was happening. He writes of "a groove of minor poetry and sport—a groove from which the war extracted me."

A certain lack of success in the saddle may have helped

to convince him that "racing isn't as important as poetry," though when he watches the grooms exercising in Rotten Row he can't help feeling a strong craving to be a brainless fox-hunter again; and when a friend gives him a small car he sees it as "a substitute for my hunter. I suppose."

Anyone suspecting schizoid tendencies may find confirmation in the way Sassoon handled these diaries. They were originally compiled in detail, his later copied out what he regarded as the most interesting sections, evidently editing on the way and often destroying the original manuscript.

This air of doctored introspection is bad for diaries, to which hindsight, passages starting "I little knew" are entirely alien. It ought to result in boredom or suspicion, particularly when we are told that all relevant to "affairs of the heart" has been removed. Yet it doesn't; we never doubt that here is a

personal enigma worth fostering, even in this curious way. This was, after all, a curious man. You never know who he'll be meeting next, what you're overlooking. Gosh, I'm missing a turning against looseness of rhymes, perhaps, or T. E. Lawrence revealing that he has been offered the Governorship of the Falklands.

Sassoon uses his friends to "weave a tapestry of human understanding" and nothing could be more time-consuming. "Gosh, what a busy day!" he remarks, not without irony, at the end of one of his typical man-about-town perambulations. "Heaven preserve me from complacent acceptance of an easy way of life, and keep my thoughts on the road to unexplored countries." So he jumps into his little car and drives off to Leatherhead or Luton.

He isn't self-mocking exactly; you feel that he respects himself too much for that. But he does have an objective eye for absurdities, wherever they may occur.

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GOLLANCZ

A Bridge of sighs and irrelevance

Ask a very silly question and you stand a high chance of getting a totally futile answer. Thus, last week, the Government plonked Lord Bridge of Harwich in a darkened room with a register of authorised phone taps stretching back to 1970. His Lordship yesterday submitted his "report" to Mrs Thatcher, and the Prime Minister sent a snippet of it in yet another of her letters to Mr Kinnock. Amusement! All the taps in the ledger marked "authorised interceptions" were, indeed, authorised. Two and two make four sensation!

Lord Bridge was wheeled forth in response to manifest, and cross-party, alarm about the activities of MIS and the Special Branch as recounted in the unseen 20/20 Vision television programme. Tapping was just one of the things that Miss Cathy Massiter and her, equally important, though unnamed, former compatriot in MIS unveiled for Channel Four. There was the infiltration of MIS agents into organisations like CND. There was the keeping of files and tabs on "non-subversive" bodies like the National Council for Civil Liberties. And there was the use of materials from such files for straightforwardly political purposes, like Mr Michael Heseltine's propaganda onslaught on the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. On all of these points, Lord Bridge is mum. They were steered well clear of his terms of reference. So was anything that might have happened but hadn't been authorised. If it's not in the books, I can't touch it.

But even if you put all these matters of moment to one side, and stick to his Lordship's narrow trammels, the report is still a ludicrous exercise. Telephone tapping was the most headline catching of Channel Four's issues because there is, even now, legislation on that question before Parliament. The Interception of Communications Bill. Not a bold, reforming gesture dictated by liberal zeal for a free democracy. A *de minimis* spot of tinkering forced upon Whitehall by the European Convention on Human Rights. A bill that adds "economic" to the areas where tapping may be instituted. A bill that appends a "tribunal" to the apparatus of the state, a quagmire growth to which people who think they've been tapped without due cause may complain.

How does all this look in the wake of

Lord Bridge? It looks a foolish nullity. For if Lord Bridge this week says that no improper authorisation has been issued since 1970, where on earth is the need for this supposed safeguard? The tribunal notion self-destructs; and for one important reason. You cannot — like ministers, or his Lordship — look not only at the initial paperwork: you have to know, and see, what happens next. Let us, for example, suppose that MIS in the seventies and eighties made one (or many) applications to tap the phones of known members of the Communist Party. Absolutely straight down the guidelines stuff. Who, on the evidence of Miss Massiter and Miss X, does that cover? Virtually everybody. John Cox of CND; Sid Harroway of the TGWU; (the burgled) Ken Gill of Tass; Mick Costello of the Morning Star; Derek Robinson of British Leyland shop stewards; Mick McGahey of the NUM. So if you were a Communist or a friend of a Communist, or (like Bruce Kent and Joan Ruddock of the CND) you occasionally found yourself on the other end of a telephone line to a Communist, you were — and are — fair, authorised game. And what happens when a Communist trades unionist — like Sid Harroway — chats about his latest Ford pay claim rather than world domination? Such material (authorised at the front end but utterly unmonitored at later stages) helpfully finds its way to ministers hopping up and down about holding the pay freeze. That may be "economic" intelligence under the new format: but it has no past or present moral credibility under MIS's ground rules. And the fact that Mr Merlyn Rees, the authorising Home Secretary of the time, says he knew nothing about it makes the point precisely. Lord Bridge — *de facto* — affirms that Mr Rees authorised a proper tap. But Mr Rees had no notion what use his authority was being put to.

This is not a supportable situation. If Parliament, when the mouth wash of fluoridation has gone, is to do an effective job it must — at the very least — blow Mr Brittan's tribunal out of the water and insist that a committee of Privy Counsellors takes over from ministers the task not merely of authorising specific taps, but of discovering what happens afterwards. And even that will be only sniffing at the problem. In South Australia in 1977 and in Canada in 1981 (as we observed a few days ago) two deep-ranging commissions of inquiry into the Special Branch and secret activities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police revealed organisations run out of control. Here are two major reports on file that show how free countries can protect

themselves from inner corrosion. By comparison, they make Lord Bridge's intellectual postage stamp a cause for shame.

The right note for Norman

Suppose, for one heady moment, you are resident guru to Mr Norman Willis of the TUC. Suppose, further, that Mr Willis had this week, commissioned from you a report for private perusal in his mole-proof office on the fourth floor of Congress House. Provisionally entitled "Beyond Scargillism, Beyond Thatcherism", or "The Forward March of Labour Resumed", the object of the exercise would be to draw some lessons for the future about the way the trade union movement responded to the strike. Your rough notes might read something like this:

The miners marched back with a modicum of dignity and a modicum of unity — which is more than might have been expected before Christmas. As a result they returned (most of them) on an upbeat note. Heads held high, bands playing and with unselfish concern for their 700 sacked comrades. The TUC, too, has come out of these past twelve months better than predicted. Six months ago the general council looked soft on ballots and sounded deafeningly silent on picket line punch ups, to say nothing of systematic vandalism and intimidation. Now the perception is that the new general secretary carried a courageous message of reason to Abercrombie last November and faced insults and a symbolic noose for his pains. At their request, he took the miners' case to Downing Street itself last month only to be given the brush-off by Arthur Scargill. Congress House looks cautious but concerned, not cowed.

Turn next to those Mori polls commissioned by Channel Four's Union World. The bad news is that only 36 per cent of union members are satisfied with the general performance of the TUC. The better news is that 55 per cent are satisfied with their own union. The good news is that, overwhelmingly (and, at 91 per cent, higher than ever before) members stress that unions are "essential" to the protection of their interests. Stir in the figures which suggest that the Conservative party has lost the entire Thatcherite trade union vote which it piled up in 1979 and — still more — in 1983. You can read the Union World poll to suggest that a fair number of TUC members, having flirted with what looked like a new style populist Conservatism, now bitterly regret it. They see the need for unions, and they have confidence in their

own organisation (the one they know about). No longer do we have that unstable situation in which the great mass of union members say the organisations set up to represent and protect them are a sight too powerful.

What we do have is a gulf between rhetoric and reality, between activists and silent majority. The miners gained emotional sympathy. You could collect money by the bucketful. But (give or take a few seamen and locomen) nobody much walked off the job. The Poor Bloody Infantry didn't want to know about "total support." It does the TUC no credit to make promises the lads will not deliver on. The Populist tide is turning and the unions, have a chance to win back their own membership. But that involves listening to them, not preaching at them. Leadership, as ever, means making sure the led are marching on behind.

But where's the real battle?

Yesterday, as local government workers marched in the sunshine against town hall spending cuts, it was possible to take temporary refuge in the warm feeling that they were all engaged in a common struggle with Whitehall. And of course, in a sense, it is true. At the general level embodied in a protest march, Labour's embattled local authorities are emphatically matched against the same foe. Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, wants them to cut their spending and hold down their rates. So, sure enough, every authority that values its services is involved. The trouble is that when you get down to the detail of how that fight is to be waged, it gets more nuanced. The easy slogans about democracy and saving services, however true they are in general terms, don't provide the same straightforward answers in different places. On the march, the GLC, Liverpool, Edinburgh and the rest may all be fighting one fight. But when they get round the table with their annual budgets and their lawyers the differences begin to show.

That is one reason why today's council budget meetings will not reflect yesterday's street unity. For the ratecapped authorities in England and Wales, there is a major difference between those who face a legal deadline this Sunday for fixing a budget and a rate, and those who can fudge now to fight another day. Then, in turn, there is another difference between the ratecapped authorities and those which, like Liverpool, are in dispute over rate levels without

being on Mr Jenkin's hit list. The Scottish rebel authorities are subject to different rules again. In other words, Mr Jenkin's opponents are divided because even if they were all agreed on a common strategy (as they seemed to be last year), they are not all so willing to get clobbered for it. The all so willing to get clobbered for it. The all so willing to get clobbered for it. The all so willing to get clobbered for it.

As a result, most of the threatened Labour authorities will indeed carry out Mr Jenkin's agreed policy of defying Mr Jenkin by refusing to set a rate. But some precepting authorities, including the previously defiant GLC, now seem likely to set the legal maximum rate allowed by Whitehall. They will then arrange their budgets to avoid service cuts. It is the rumour that other ratecapped authorities are privately planning similar moves which has given Mr Ken Livingstone cold feet as dawn approaches. But it is not merely the important consideration of maintaining a united front while protecting his back which has provoked this last minute change of heart. Mr Livingstone and his colleagues have had yet another look at the figures and, lo and behold, they have discovered that they have more scope to retain services (and even expand a bit) than they had previously thought. If that is right (and many local government finance experts have been predicting it for some weeks) then any authority which can meet its plans and pledges while keeping within the law would be very foolish to do otherwise. The great issues of defiance of the law have thus (for the GLC at least) been reduced to a simpler and more banal question: why break the law if you don't need to?

The combination of setting a high but legal rate and redrawing the budget could, of course, store up problems for the future (at any rate for those authorities which have one). There are limits to the resourcefulness of even the most creative accounting. For some authorities, it should be stressed, no such option exists. Even so, this week's eleventh hour replanning of budgets is a poor advertisement for the defiant authorities. They do themselves no credit by repeatedly warning that life as we know it will come to an end if Mr Jenkin gets his way, only to then announce that they have in fact got the figures wrong. It isn't merely their budgets which then begin to lack credibility — though that is important enough. There is also a political loss to consider. Leadership which appears to fight phoney battles when there are real issues to contest is bad leadership.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Miscellany at large

Sir, — From time to time the African specialists among those who write to the Guardian show proper indignation about some crime allegedly committed by the South African government. All well and good, you may say, and perhaps these letters have had some influence in persuading Mr Botha's government to introduce some reforms and promise some more.

But it is surprising that black-ruled countries in Africa seem to be able to behave quite outrageously without incurring the wrath of people like Peter Hain or L. Clarke, or Ubridge.

In Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe's government is hounding all its political opponents — the BBC and the Catholic Church in pursuance of its one-party Marxist state. Yet your self-appointed Africa-watchers remain completely silent.

Why is a tyrant only a tyrant if his face is white? — Yours faithfully, Howard Fry, The Cottage, Dulverton, Somerset.

Sir, — I wonder if Sir Clive Whitmore (Letters, March 2) realises that Mr Fontaine was also on oath when he told the court that he had been offered immunity from prosecution? It seems the jury had no doubts about Mr Fontaine's truthfulness. — Yours faithfully, Jim Skilbeck, Loughton, Essex.

Sir, — Mrs Prior has become a director of Tate & Lyle at £10,000 per annum (Guardian March 2) as she "wanted something to make a few pennies for a change." Presumably, because Jim's £80,000 from his spare time job leaves them a bit short. I suggest she should look to the teaching profession. After three years training, an OU degree, and 13 years experience she could earn £8,556 — like me. Did I choose the wrong profession or the wrong husband? — Yours faithfully, Sue Smith, Stourbridge.

Sir, — I note with interest (Education Guardian, March 5) that the book, *Sex Education: A Practical Guide for Teachers*, is available in two formats, "hard back" or "lump." Are we to assume that more satisfaction is to be gained from reading the former? — Yours faithfully, Adrian Breen, Weymouth, Dorset.

Why moral missions of the Tardis should not be delayed

Sir, — May I appeal to the BBC to reverse its decision to postpone the next series of Dr. Who. This programme represents all that is best in the BBC.

It is creatively stimulating to young minds. Its scientific content and the ingenuity of

When our policemen decide to put the boot in

Sir, — Hundreds of demonstrators last night tried to keep the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, out of Manchester University's Student Union, but where he was due to speak. But about 100 policemen arrived and cleared a path through the crowd. . . . Scuffles broke out. (Guardian, back page, March 2).

My 19-year-old (pacifist) student daughter claims that what seemed — and duly felt — like hundreds of policemen suddenly appeared from nowhere, without warning, and literally charged with full force at the students standing and sitting in peaceful display on the union steps.

She protests that she was knocked to the ground and dragged down the steps, severely bruising the whole of her right side (to the extent that she has a cracked rib). She says the whole experience was both terrifying and sickening.

She is not exaggerating. On Friday evening while watching the 9 o'clock news, I was suddenly shocked to see my own daughter emerge backwards, at the bottom of the Manchester Students Union steps, from under the feet of dozens of charging policemen. She picked her

self up, looked at the scene with obvious bewilderment, swayed, then seemed to fall backwards into the camera. These young people were peacefully displaying their feelings. The police were not expected. It was not a "Student Riot". But contrary to what the media would have us believe, the police now bring serious trouble wherever they descend on masses.

It seems incredible to me that the police felt it necessary to show their strength at all, far less their teeth, in such a cruel, ruthless manner. Is this, indeed, the new "police state"? — Yours faithfully, Patsy Yapp, 51 Albert Road, Epsom, Surrey.

Sir, — Above Leon Brittan's platform at Manchester University's Student Union was a banner saying: "Though we despise what you say, we defend your right to say it with our lives." It is not only the responsibility of students to serve democracy; brutal police action such as I witnessed on Friday evening shatters the democratic right to protest non-violently. Mr Brittan's police force

would do well to heed Voltaire's sentiment. — Yours, Carl Lessof, Manchester University.

Sir, — We were amazed by the negligible coverage you afforded to the incident at our union building on the night of the Home Secretary's visit. The three small paragraphs you allocated to the story in no way reflected the seriousness of the police assault on a peaceful demonstration.

The way in which the Tactical Aid Group was deployed that night was deeply shocking to everybody present (including the Conservative students who had invited Mr Brittan to speak). Thirty minutes before the Home Secretary's arrival, a column of 40 officers ploughed into the main body of the crowd waiting for him on the union steps, hurling many people down the steps and into the main road. Throughout the evening they punched, kicked, and generally assaulted everybody in their way. One woman student was taken to hospital with a suspected broken neck after police officers had thrown her down the steps of "our" union.

National media coverage of these incidents was ridiculously biased — the Daily Mail headlined its story, "Police help girl in demo" — and though this was expected, we had hoped for better from a newspaper which is supposedly dedicated to civil liberties. Your silence was conspicuous. — Yours, Daniel Scott, Chris Simpson, University of Manchester Union.

Sir, — After Monday's scenes outside Haringey College, one is left wondering how Neil Kinnock would have acted had he spent a few months on an NME picket line and experienced first-hand the daily provocation and violence of the police. — Yours sincerely, Julian Brennan, 63 Godfrey House, London EC1.

Sir, — On February 24, with my wife and daughter, I listened to the speeches in Trafalgar Square during the miners' rally. Later I was standing on a pavement in Whitehall amid groups of people witnessing appalling scenes. A police inspector without justification pushed a middle-aged woman

standing next to me with such force that she fell backwards into a group of people.

She protested, and the inspector denied that he had pushed her. When I protested, he assaulted me. I have written to the Metropolitan Police to complain of this misconduct.

Many onlookers who were not part of the demonstration, seemed stunned by the brutality of certain police elements. Over the past six years our society has been rent by divisive social pressures which are barely being contained even by draconian paramilitary methods. After Sunday's direct experience of police brutality, I feel for the first time in my life that I live in an occupied country.

F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote: "Very often the greatest defences are erected at the gateway to nothing." With astronomical national expenditure on weapons of destruction and on forces of coercion, we have to ask whom and what we are defending? — Yours faithfully, J.M. Williams, 7 Beechcroft Road, Oxford.

The Great Lie told by those mindless economic zealots

Sir, — We are now informed by the New Right that "the economy has never really worked since 1945, and this is the first serious crisis since the war." There is certainly much to be said for the Great Lie, which by its vast expense and generality, is a problem to refute. But each time such a statement is allowed to pass without refutation, it gains credibility, particularly among those who have no direct means of assessing it. I have never sought political confrontation, but such a statement challenges almost every memory I have about the last 40 years.

Between 1945 and 1970, all governments, including Conservative ones, contributed to the consolidation of Clem Attlee's heroic efforts to bring to an end three centuries of exploitation by our rich and privileged here and throughout the world. We had a stable currency, low interest rates, low unemployment, good national and local services, tolerant attitudes, and a measure of social harmony.

The industrial sector was not the most spectacular in the world, but then few of us have much wish to emulate the disciplined qualities

of our war-time enemies. Yet there were many successful private and state concerns in oil, chemicals, coal, gas, steel, transport, communications, etc., and from which we made a reasonable living. With North Sea oil on the way in the 1970s, the stage was set for the most prosperous time of all.

Only by unusual incompetence could any government fail to succeed in this decade. One of the first critical decisions of this government was to raise the bank rate to 17 per cent, which at the time one assumed to be very temporary. But no: the deliberate decision had been made to drive out of business those who on any short-term evaluation were considered a drain on the economy.

Many old-established manufacturing firms who were doing difficult things were forced to close down. More parastatals came with large cash balances had no incentive to do anything more than keep their money in the bank at 10 per cent on capital. It was always considered very adequate. They were positively rewarded with unearned money.

Now five years later, with very high rates of borrowing, the highest unemployment, the country divided, services disappearing, and North Sea oil money squandered, we face a very serious situation. If ever there was a time when things were not working, it is now.

What has happened can only be described as a mindless experiment, bordering on vandalism, by a few zealots on the structure of this society. To try to smash the cohesion of our most basic industry is just one example of this. The serious cutbacks in state education, returning us to pre-war days when the highest centres of learning were largely inaccessible to working-class children, is another.

The new militarism and use of intelligence services is also symptomatic of these mindless ways. Thoughtful people welcome open debate and diversity of opinion. This is the essence of a free society.

They took over on a beautiful Christian prayer, but their appeal is only to the lowest instincts of aggression and selfishness. Bearing one another's burden is just for the weak and simple-minded. The German Monist League once propagated a similar primitive Darwinian view, eventually to see their consummation in unparalleled barbarism.

The worst thing now would be to refuse to challenge and by our silence and timidity encourage them to further excesses. This much we can learn from pre-war times. — Yours sincerely, J. Evans, 81 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge.

Classified

Sir, — Surely there need be no confusion about what the Queen said, or meant, regarding the coal strike while touring The Times. As *The Times*, itself, quotes: "... the Queen replied, adding, 'it's about one person, really.'"

No mention there of Arthur Scargill or even of the "one man" that has been bandied about. Her Majesty chooses her words with care. Doubtless she was simply valuing the view shared by many, just which "person" is responsible for the strike lasting a year. — Yours sincerely, M. F. Tisher, 3 Lyndhurst Terrace, London NW5.

A COUNTRY DIARY

EXMOOR: Conspicuous among the ever-changing landscape colours at present are the pale brown of the leaves still adhering to the beech hedges and, on the open moor, charcoal-blue areas of irregular shape where swaling areas have scorched the vegetation. The rivers, which subdivide the upland tend to produce steep-sided valleys. Walking beside the Exe, upstream of Dulverton, one could even feel a bit hemmed-in. The direction is seldom straight for more than a furling or so in this section of the river and the effect is to restrict views upstream and down. The feeling is increased by thick woods

which raise the skyline higher still. The roar of the Exe, as it flows through the narrow gorges, is a constant reminder of the valley as suddenly as it had commenced and emphasised the indented character of this part of the country. Apart from this intrusion we met no-one except for the soothing sounds of the river water and the calls of the birds, silence reigned. In north-facing spots, icicles still survived from the intense cold of mid-February. Deer were lying up in a lair at the head of the woods which, experience has taught them, offers protection from wind and an over-view of approaches and escape routes.

There has never been such a thing as an "arms-length" policy operated by the Government in relationship to the Arts Council. Funding the arts is and always will be political; providing public money to subsidise an uneconomic venture is political.

To staff the Arts Council with political lightweight is under the control of a former Treasury minister is, from the Government's point of view, tactically good politics. What the several dissenters are really saying is

that they don't like the politics now being practised.

There is a reluctance on the part of the Arts Council to dirty its hands with politics in the hope that a few more crumbs will drop from the table. Clearly this "tactic" does not work. It is time to decide which side we are on and take action.

How about a VAT strike? Theatre could do quite nicely in the short term, by hanging on to all the taxes it collects for the Government.

And where was the Labour Party when the issue of arts funding hit the front page? Wake up, Neil, and give the arts spokesman a prod, whoever he is. — Yours faithfully, Ian Bewater, Shaw Theatre, London NW1.

We always expect to see dipper beside the freshly-running rivers of this region and after noticing single birds we watched a pair having a splash near Tarr Steps, the medieval clapper bridge. The tranquility of the valley can be deceptive; sometimes the river floods acutely. I can remember three occasions when some of the large spanning slabs of the bridge, weighing between one and two tons each, have been tossed aside. Flocks of wood pigeons and fieldfares passed us and a buzzard mewed overhead. The only surprise was the shooting of a tawny owl, in broad daylight.

BRIAN CHUGG

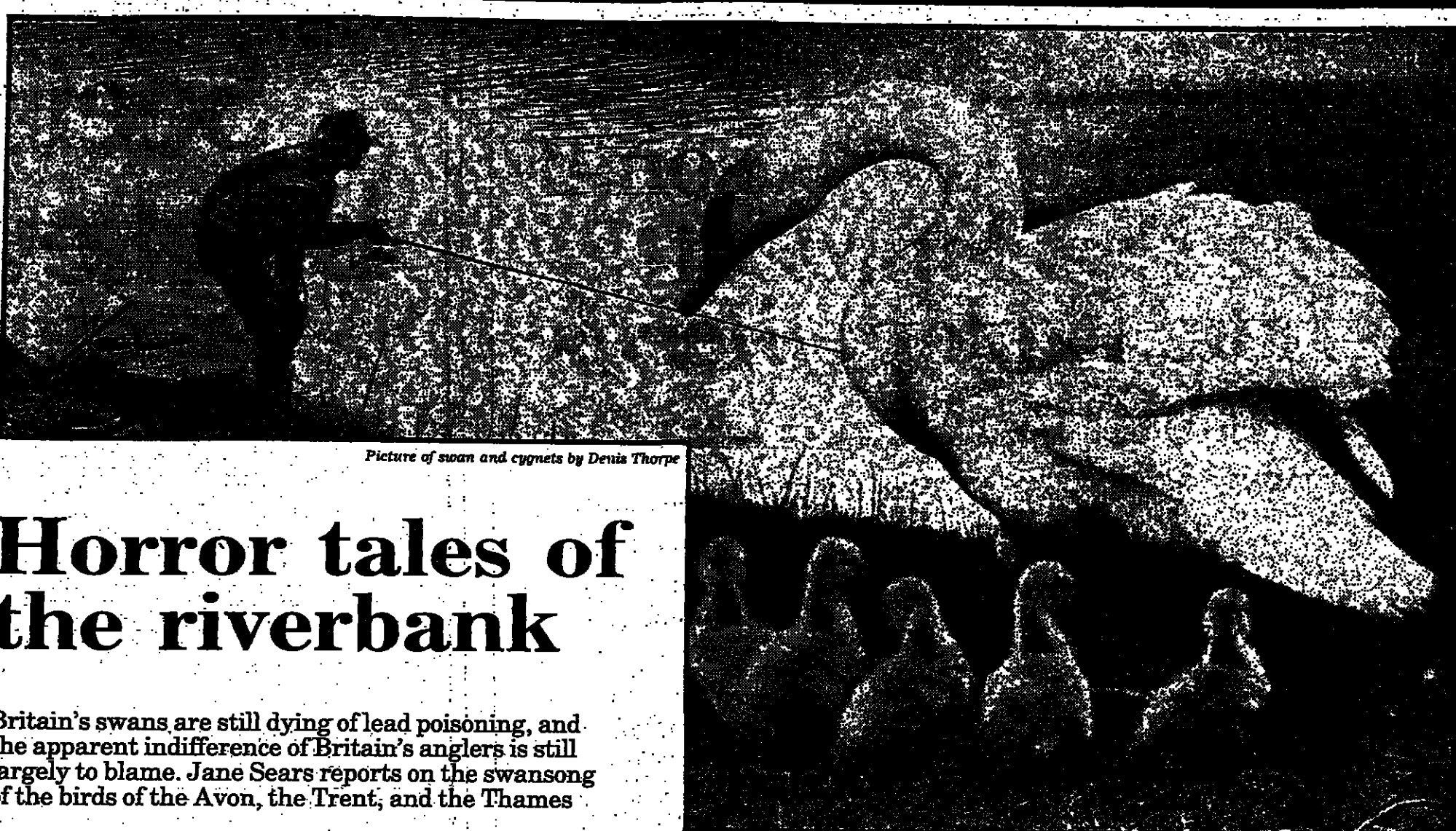
IN 1981, when the Nature Conservancy Council produced their report on Lead Poisoning in Swans, the anglers denied that they were fishing weights. For years, they claimed, they had been carefully taking them home, and no longer did they strip them off the line, as had been the old practice. Three years later it was still possible to find as many as 2,000 weights over an area of 120 square meters of river bank. Anglers are still discarding lead weights, and lead weights are still causing unnecessary swan deaths.

In its report, the Nature Conservancy Council recommended that lead weights be phased out of use by 1985 and it encouraged the development of non-toxic alternatives. 1986 is next year, so how has the "phasing-out" proceeded? Well, lead weights are still being used by almost all the 2½ million registered freshwater anglers in Great Britain. During the last year, four non-toxic alternative weights have come on to the market, but it is a very mixed reception. It is widely felt that whilst lead weights are still for sale, no alternative will be generally accepted.

In the meantime, the anglers have agreed to follow a Code of Practice, whereby they take special care not to spill their lead weights, and they carefully dispose of them at the end of their fishing. But in spite of this lead weights are still accumulating on river banks and in the sediments, within easy reach of swans picking up food and grit. And still an estimated 3,700 swans die of lead poisoning each year in England.

Over the last three years, since the report was published, a total of 1,620 dead swans have been examined throughout the British Isles. Of these, 915 had died of lead poisoning. The East Anglian rivers of the Nene, Welland, and lower Ouse, are particular problem areas, where 78 per cent of the swans found dead were lead poisoned. On the Lower Thames, around Windsor to Richmond, as many as 81 per cent of the deaths were from lead poisoning.

For the past year the swans rescued from the Thames by



Picture of swan and cygnets by Denis Thorpe

Horror tales of the riverbank

Britain's swans are still dying of lead poisoning, and the apparent indifference of Britain's anglers is still largely to blame. Jane Sears reports on the swansong of the birds of the Avon, the Trent, and the Thames

the Save Our Swans charity, based at Windsor, have been X-rayed on admission. All the swans diagnosed as lead poisoned have had either lead weights, or traces of ground lead in their gizzards. For many it is still possible to see the split in the weights, before they become ground down. The average number of weights found was seven, but as many as 24 were found in one bird. It seems likely that some of these are taken in together on line.

The rescued swans are treated with chelating agents, to try to remove the lead from

circulation. They are well fed, and given anti-biotics and even steroids, to build up their strength. Some are too far gone, and suffer impaction as a result of paralysis caused by the lead. The food blocks up in their gizzards, and effectively they die of starvation within a week or two. However, many have been saved and the treatment currently has around a 50 per cent chance of success.

On the Thames last year 78 cygnets hatched during May and June. By the end of July, 27 of these were known to have died or were being

treated, and lead poisoning was responsible for 67 per cent of them. One cygnet was only six weeks old but already had picked up 13 weights and was stunted by the effects of lead. Before the fishing season started on June 15, none of the cygnets were lead poisoned, or had weights in them. But during the first week of the season, seven had taken in weights, and an eighth had died from a fishing hook through its neck.

Lead poisoning is most common during the summer months of July to September,

but declines generally during the winter months. Between March and June there is a marked fall-off in the incidence of lead poisoning both in number of swans found dead, and the average blood lead levels. This pattern corresponds to the fishing season, when no fishing takes place, runs from March 15 to June 15, and the most popular time for river fishing is during the summer holidays. It would appear as though the swans pick up the most recently used weights, and thus that the incidence of lead poison-

ing is directly related to the supply of lead weights.

Swans are in no danger of extinction. Overall, the national population has remained almost static at between 18,000 to 19,000 swans. In some areas there have been local increases; notably in the coastal and estuarine regions of East Anglia, Southern England, and Northern Scotland. But these increases have been balanced by falls in other areas; particularly in the coarse fishing areas of lowland England.

The problem has been so bad on the Trent at Nottingham and the Avon at Stratford that there are no longer any resident swans in these two towns. Perhaps it is wishful thinking that the new extension to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre is to be called The Swan Theatre.

On the Thames the death rate for cygnets is so high that each cygnet hatched has only a one in seven chance of reaching maturity. Each pair hatches on average only five eggs, so therefore the death rate for the Thames cygnets

is higher than the rate of production.

The National Anglers' Council, and the National Federation of Anglers have mounted educational campaigns, promoting the voluntary code of practice. Tackle shops are displaying illustrated posters, and Water Authorities distribute leaflets with their rod licences. Lead weights in shops are now for sale in spill-proof containers which allow only one weight out at a time, and other devices are available for the safe disposal of used tackle. Several angling clubs have ruled that competitors must give in their used tackle before weighing their fish at the end of a match. Other clubs have held lead-free matches, or even banned the use of lead weights from the stretches of river they fish.

Much of this effort on the part of the anglers has been made possible by the introduction of alternative weights, which have been available in the shops throughout the last fishing season. But recent surveys on the availability and sale of the alternatives have been carried out by both the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and the anglers. Both indicate that lead weights are still being bought in large quantities. Only three per cent of the tackle shops surveyed had sold more alternative weights than lead. The main reason given for the poor sales was that the alternatives were too expensive. When compared with the price of lead, which is a relatively cheap substance, the alternatives, which are manufactured from steel or tungsten, are 2 to 3 times as expensive. However, they are more re-usable than lead, and it is also expected that as sales increase their prices will drop.

The Government has stated that lead fishing weights will be banned from fishing once acceptable alternatives are available. Until that time the voluntary use of existing alternatives is to be encouraged. All the evidence suggests that such voluntary measures are not enough.

Jane Sears is at the Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology at the University of Oxford.

High energy physics are a shared problem, not a scientific liability

Withdrawal from CERN, argues Anthony Tucker, would represent false accounting as well as false economy

WITHIN the next few weeks the hard-pressed Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), which handles the finance of a substantial proportion of research in the physical sciences in Britain, may be advising the Government that it can no longer afford to participate nationally as a member of the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN). Britain was a founder member of CERN back in the mid-50's when it was realised that the costs of research into high energy physics were too great for any single European nation and

therefore required international collaboration on a grand scale.

The resulting high energy physics laboratory, whose success in the construction of giant machines has kept Europe at the cutting edge of research into the fundamental structure of matter, is not simply one of the best in the world, but a triumph of collaboration. Paradoxically Britain is contemplating withdrawal within a year of Spain returning to the high energy physics club after 14 years of absence through poverty. Times, it seems, have changed.

National participation in CERN rests on signature and ratification of a Convention, and this is a diplomatic rather than a scientific matter. For this reason the annual payments to CERN made by participating nations and calculated on a GNP basis are normally carried by the Foreign Office (or its equivalent) of member states. This clearly separates diplomatically committed finance from the domestic scientific programme and provides a buffer against changes in the value of currency. CERN contributions have to be paid in Swiss francs.

Alone among the member nations Britain's contribution is paid from within the domestic civil service budget. The relative hardness of the Swiss franc against sterling has prompted supplementary payments from the Government to the science budget (2.5 million in the current year) which partly offset the softness of sterling, but the total payment to CERN is beginning to look unacceptably huge when examined in a context of extreme economic stringency in science.

The current annual contribution to CERN is about £30 million, which is rather more than 11 per cent of the CERN's annual budget. The CERN contribution comprises more than half of the total expenditure on nuclear physics and seems large, even when compared with the other "big

sciences" — astronomy and space research. The current total for these is £48 million a year. Taken together the big sciences consume about £110 million a year, compared with about £73 million for all other science. Most of the grade one proposals now being thrown away fall in the "other science" categories. This essentially, is a direct result of the inflexibility of commitments to large projects, which squeeze out the small fry.

At the present time a working party, under the chairmanship of Sir John Kendrew, is examining the value of Britain's participation at CERN and the implications and effects of pulling out. In that event there would certainly be a major diplomatic row and, if SERC were to attempt or even succeed in having off the annual costs, there is no certainty that an equivalent sum would not be withheld by the Treasury.

Although the Kendrew report will not be ready before

Easier it is very probable that guidance on its findings will be before SERC at its council meeting at the end of this month. It will be an attempt to put the issue in its starkest terms, to balance the value of spending £30 million a year on keeping about 200 high energy physicists employed and hence keeping a firm grip on the relevant science and technologies, against the benefits of spending that amount of money in other starving disciplines.

In reality the decision cannot be made on this basis. As CERN recently pointed out, the knock-on high technology benefits of participation in CERN far exceed in value that of the national investments. Much closer to the hearts and thoughts of the Cabinet Office (and probably the Treasury) is the uncomfortable fact that the applied technologies of particle acceleration: employed in the machines of CERN and other high energy physics laboratories, are pre-

cisely the technologies perceived by the Thatcher-Reagan Thunderbirds brigade as the sharp end of the Star Wars systems. To be sure, high energy physics is concerned with sub-atomic structures, the forces of interaction between particles and the implications of these for the grand architecture of the universe. The giant machines of CERN are dedicated to these purposes.

Quite apart from the purely scientific question of whether, when dominated by experimental machines, scientific thinking becomes unproductively fettered, the fact is that these ploughshares philosophies use tools whose applied physics are now perceived as the basis of destructive (defensive) electron, proton, neutron or heavy particle beams. With CERN looking at heavy ion acceleration and occasionally glancing at macro-particle acceleration, there is no way that involvement in the CERN venture can be distinguished on the basis of technological

expertise, from that required for research into, or assessment of, Star Wars weaponry. With Mrs Thatcher firmly committed to participation in Star Wars research there is a looming problem of substantial proportions. It would be quite lunatic to allow Britain to pull out of CERN while surreptitiously building up some kind of second-hand beam weapons effort at Aldermaston — where they already play about with large lasers and look gloomily at electron beam physics. CERN is in the big league — up with Los Alamos, you might say. And even more than in the 50's, we cannot afford to enter that league alone especially if we want a cool and independent look at US propositions.

It seems most unlikely that the Kendrew report will enter this murky realm in any detail, if at all. Yet if the Government would come clean and really spell out the reasons why it has committed enormous sums to high energy physics in the past

and which departments are interested in its doing so in the future, a realistic structure for the support of high energy physics could emerge.

What is certain is that the timescale of discussion of the fundamental structure of matter, as investigated in the high energy laboratories, is not likely to be crucial to the rate of progress of human achievement. From a purely civil-science point of view there cannot be any justification for allowing high energy physics to so deplete an already depleted national science budget that other disciplines suffer.

But that is not the same thing as saying that the time has come to pull out of CERN. It is the final warning that the Government must be prepared to pay for the expertise it wishes to maintain and hence to shift much of the burden of CERN to more appropriate Departmental shoulders. Most other nations do precisely that and it has the great merit of honesty.



Zebra: 20 different expressions

Straight from the zebra's mouth

Stephen Young puts a brave face on the art of conversing with a zebra

ZEBRAS, like their relatives the horses, are highly communicative creatures. Sights, sounds and smells all have parts to play in the messages they send to one another. But some of the most important of the zebra's signals are facial expressions. As a recent study byists makes clear, indeed, it seems that zebras can only earn their stripes if they can learn the art of lip-reading. Deciphering the zebra's facial contortions for other zebras, but it is by no means a simple task for a human observer. It can be hard enough to understand human body language, let alone equine equivalent. How do you know when a zebra is pulling a face? And how do you know when a zebra is pulling a face in communication that face in communication that there is nothing for it but to watch zebras going about their daily business over a long period and then try to correlate facial expressions with particular sequences of behaviour.

The biologists, led by Mathias Schuler of the State

University of Utrecht, studied a herd of Plains Zebras, *Equus burchelli*, in a wildlife park in Kenya. They monitored as many face-to-face encounters as possible, while noting the contexts in which those encounters took place. In each instance they recorded positions and movements of the head, jaws, lips and ears of each participant; these are the building blocks of the zebra's sophisticated facial language.

Careful analysis revealed that the zebra pulls about 20 distinct faces. But, as far as the biologists could tell, those expressions do not convey 20 different messages. On the contrary, the faces in the zebra's repertoire can be grouped into six basic types, the most important of which are those that signal play, threat, submission and greeting. Within these groups there may be expressive nuances that transmit subtly different shades of meaning.

Zebra, especially young stallions, engage in vigorous bouts of playful biting. But boisterous play is open to misinterpretation unless the players signal their friendly intentions. So, during these mock contests, zebras pull a "play face". The procedure is simple: each animal points its ears forwards or sideways, while stretching its head and neck towards its adversary. Playful approaches are unlikely to be confused with

serious aggression, which has its own special group of expressions — the "threat faces". At such moments of high drama, the zebra swivels its amazingly mobile ears so that they point backwards, while keeping its head outstretched and pointing a stiff upper lip towards its opponent. The animal on the receiving end of the gesture usually backs down from the encounter and takes avoiding action.

A stallion uses a second threatening expression if any of the mares in his harem wander away from the group. This face retains the "ears backward" component of the standard threat, but the head is directed towards the females usually respond by returning to the fold the expression is probably a means of keeping the herd together.

Zebra indicate submission by baring their teeth. From a dominant animal's viewpoint, this is the acceptable face of capitulation. In fact, there are several faces of this type, each of which may express a different degree of deference, depending on the exact position of the ears and movements of the jaws. The drill is to swing the ears forward and refrain from chewing when mild submission is appropriate, but to push the ears backwards and chew like mad when a more pronounced form of submission

is called for. The latter face is commonly seen in sexually receptive mares — but it is not the exclusive property of females.

By contrast, zebras never show their teeth when putting on the "open-mouth" face — the last in the inventory. Zebras adopting such an expression pull the ears forwards, while opening and closing the mouth repeatedly. This countenance seems to express a cautious greeting, since it often accompanies investigative behaviour, such as genital sniffing and nose-to-nose contacts.

The zebra's face is an expressive and versatile medium of communication. And, of course, the striped muzzle must make those facial expressions all the more vivid. So, while we are on the subject, what is the function of those stripes?

Zoologists have proposed all manner of theories. For example, stripes may dazzle marauding lions, confuse attacking flies, or serve as means of camouflage — when viewed from a distance. Another idea, based on the observation that zebras just love being surrounded by stripes, is that they help groups to stick together. With such an array of theories available, the puzzle of the zebra's stripes looks set to remain one of the all-time great impossibilities.



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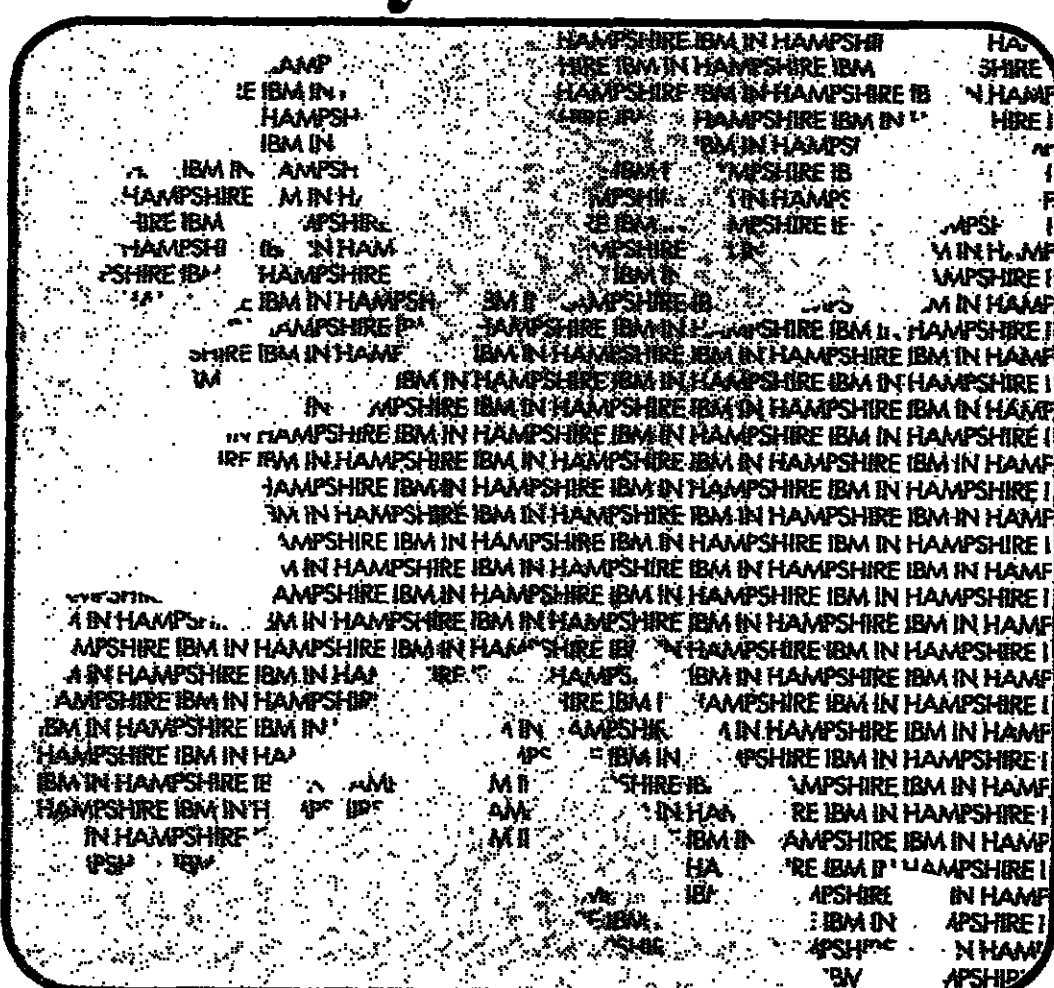
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- Microprocessors microcode
- Hardware diagnostic aid design

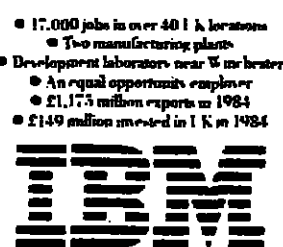
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You will be working with professional programming teams engaged in systems design, systems programming and applications programming. Here, you'll need experience of programming in a development environment, plus a knowledge of mainframe, controller, or workstation software. If you've specific experience in one or more of the following, then so much the better:

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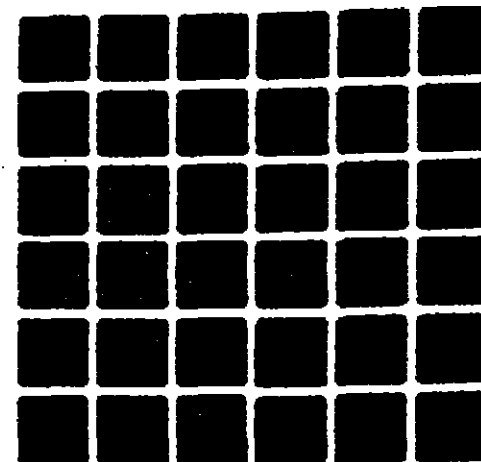
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Please write with full career details to: Paul McNutt in the Personnel Department, IBM United Kingdom Laboratories Limited, FREEPOST, Hursley Park, Winchester, Hants, SO21 2BR, or phone for an application form on FREEPHONE 9533 124 (hour answering machine). Please quote reference: G/12879.



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If you look directly at the grid, you will see a series of grey dots between the squares. They don't exist. Your eyes are being deceived by an optical illusion.

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The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer.

Manager, Quality Assurance Department

Central London £20k +

Logica's position as the leading independent British systems company rests on the high quality of the work we do.

A team of specialist staff supports Logica's established Quality Assurance system throughout the company. This function is seen as vital for our continued growth and profitability.

We are seeking a Manager for our Quality Assurance Department who will report directly to the Commercial and Quality Director. Responsibilities include directing and developing the department's activities and strengthening its complement of specialist staff.

You should possess:

- previous line management experience
- proven expertise in quality management specifically related to software development
- familiarity with the wide range of Quality Assurance requirements and techniques associated with Logica's activities.

This is one of the most challenging appointments in the field of software Quality Assurance.

Please contact Jennifer Williams on 01-637 9111 ext 2587 for an application form or write to her at Logica UK Limited, 64 Newman Street, London W1A 4SE, quoting reference QR/4/G.



British Rail Engineering, one of Europe's largest Engineering organisations, is involved in the design, development, manufacture and maintenance of railway rolling stock and equipment. With a turnover exceeding £400 million and over 26,000 employees we operate competitively in world markets, exporting to over 30 countries.

Industrial Designers

Rail Vehicles

As part of our new design team in Derby we are now seeking Project Design Engineers with special responsibility for styling both interior and exterior of railway rolling stock for UK and export markets. Applicants should be able to offer qualifications and experience in this or related fields and must also be familiar with materials technology to ensure compliance with all fire and safety regulations.

The tasks will range from initial concepts through to Production Design and interaction will be with Suppliers, Engineering Designers, Production staff and our customers to offer aesthetically pleasing, low cost and functional designs. Some overseas travel could be involved.

● Senior Project Engineer (Styling)
Salary £11,320-£15,235

● Assistant Project Engineer (Styling)
Salary £9,305-£11,970

Company benefits include free and reduced rate travelling facilities and contributory pension scheme with the opportunity in certain cases to transfer existing pension rights. Applications with full details of experience, qualifications and present salary should be submitted within 14 days to: HQ Personnel Manager, British Rail Engineering Limited, St. Peter's House, Gower Street, Derby, DE1 1AH.

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COMPUTER LIAISON OFFICER

★ PO1b £12,507 - £13,491 p.a. incl.

This position has been newly created in recognition of the potential which exists for development of computer based systems in the Town Clerk's and Environmental Health Services. Working closely with both line management and the central computer service, you will investigate work methods and operations to identify opportunities for computerisation.

The key aspects of the job are:
Acting as the local Liaison Officer in respect of the maintenance of existing main computer systems and the development of these and others.

Maximising and co-ordinating the use of the various personal computing facilities available.
Establishing standards and procedures that are consistent with the Council's computer strategy and policies.

You should possess analytical and innovative skills and be able to display evidence of suitable aptitude and flair.

The Royal Borough of
KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

Application forms quoting Ref.: G520 from the Personnel Service, The Town Hall, Horton Street, London, W8 7NX. Tel: 01-837 8562 (24 hour answering service).

Closing date for applications 22nd March, 1985.

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Colworth Laboratory, Bedford

Communications Software Consultant

£14,000

A challenging post now exists in one of the major research centres which support Unilever worldwide. The laboratory is the largest food research establishment in Europe and has substantial activities in biotechnology and health care.

* The work is the development and production of communications software for the site using a large Ethernet local area network, which supports a range of computers including Vax, PDP 11 and an IBM 55/20. A large number of workstations including IBM PCs and DEC Professional computers are also connected to the network together with some 300 terminals.

* Applicants should be first rate Computer scientists, engineers, physicists or mathematicians with a good academic record, excellent computer skills and a proven track record in communications software. A strong interest in areas such as Decnet, SNA, and OSI protocols is highly desirable.

* Salary will be up to £14,000 for those with the required qualifications. Benefits are highly competitive, including relocation costs where appropriate.

Application forms can be obtained from Miss P. Grayson, Recruitment Manager, Unilever Research, Colworth Laboratory, Sharnbrook, Bedford MK44 1LQ. Tel: Bedford (0234) 781781, ext. 2232 (Answerphone after office hours).



Real-Time Software Design

8-14k



A choice of locations is offered - one in North-West Surrey, the other in a delightful Royal Park near Kingston - by our blue-chip client who is at present involved in some of the most advanced work in its field.

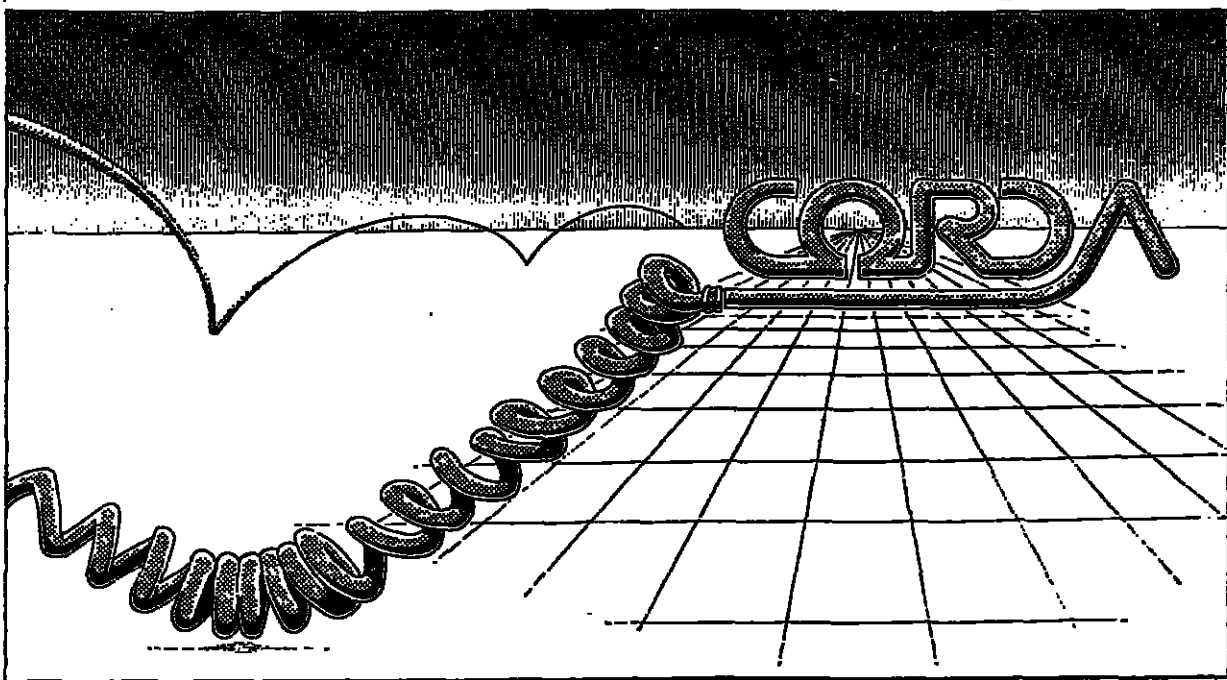
Their requirement is for innovative, creative, forward-thinking software engineers who wish to become absorbed in the development of a variety of different real-time DEC and HP-based systems covering acoustic tracking, graphics and data acquisition for the defence and energy industries. The main languages are Coral and Fortran, but Pascal is also of benefit. They are also planning to introduce Ada into their research work.

They can offer you excellent career advancement if you are bright, ambitious and enthusiastic. They further offer the prospect of some site visits. Salaries are very attractive and their relocation package is first-class. If you wish to learn more, then please ring either Penny Warburg or Clare Newton on 01-943 4366. Alternatively, send in your CV to the address below and we will ring you at your convenience.

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Senior Defence Consultants Scientific Programmers



Phone for enlightenment

CORDA was formed last year to provide a focus for CERN's Scientific Operational Analysis business. The Centre for Operational Research and Defence Analysis is dedicated to applying operational research and defence analysis skills to defence, civil government, commerce and industry. We also market an exceptional range of mathematical programming software packages including LAMPS, MACCLAMPS, LANTERN and Prinsker and Associates' simulation package SLAM. Employing over 60 staff on 25 projects, CORDA is already one of the UK's largest OR and OA establishments. Our technical managers are running the phone lines NOW - and up to 9pm this evening to talk to high calibre professionals interested in the following positions:

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A creative practical approach is vital to our work. If you are eager to develop your career in Operational Analysis but are starved of opportunity and are in danger of being diverted into systems design, this is your opportunity to grow quickly along a technical or managerial route in a more enlightened environment. In your late 20s to mid 30s you must have at least 5 years' experience, most of it in defence applications, and must demonstrate an innovative but sound and mature approach to shaping questions and formulating strategies for solutions.

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Your current job description may not be that of Operational Researcher or Defence Analyst, but probably you are becoming increasingly interested in assessing system options. What you must have is 1-3 years' experience in a scientific programming environment doing software development for a defence contractor, software house or similar.

Our emphasis on quality, performance and intellectual freedom creates a stimulating career environment. Applicants will normally be graduates of a numerate science. Salaries genuinely reflect ability and effort.

01-831 6144
CORDA can measurably brighten your career. For further enlightenment telephone Dr Peter Bruijn NOW on 01-831 6144 or on Sunday on Hemel Hempstead (0462) 82823. Alternatively write to him for an application form at CAP Scientific, 20-26 Lamb Conduit Street, London WC1N 3LF.

CAP

Market analyst

Eastman Chemical International A.G.

An opening has arisen for a Market Analyst in the Marketing Information Department of Eastman Chemical International based at Kodak Limited's Head Office in Hemel Hempstead.

The successful applicant, male or female, will initially be required to assist in the preparation of reports on the market for Eastman's range of industrial and coating chemicals, plastics and textile products in Europe, Middle East and Africa. It is envisaged that in due course responsibility will be assumed for specific market research projects which will involve some travel.

Comprehensive training will be provided in the UK and overseas.

The ideal candidate will be a Chemistry Graduate, aged between 25-28 years, with at least two years business experience. Good communication skills, both oral and written are important. A working knowledge of a second European language would be an advantage.

We offer a wide range of employee benefits normally associated with a large international company, good prospects for career advancement and a competitive salary package within range £8000-£9000 p.a.

If you are seeking a unique opportunity to join a progressive international organisation and can match our requirements please send a full c.v. or apply for an application form to:

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Technical Planning Manager

Strong analytical abilities and critical judgement are needed to review and advise on overall technical hardware strategy to achieve maximum benefit from the development and integration of equipment. There is particular emphasis on local network installations, involving the project appraisal and management of independent local area network proposals.

Experience in formulating and developing practical computing policy within a large organisation with substantial processing and networking needs should be combined with the ability to liaise effectively at senior level with technical experts and laypersons alike.

Salary: £18,489 - £26,349 inclusive.

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To oversee and advise on the generation and maintenance of operating system/network software, performance monitoring procedures and capacity management regimes, and contribute to the formulation and implementation of hardware strategy.

Substantial experience in the development and application of these functions, plus a comprehensive knowledge of the MVS SP operating system and related products and their on line implementation are essential.

Salary: £18,489 - £26,349 inclusive.

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To be responsible for running and updating our production control and data preparation functions.

A positive approach to problem solving, plus experience of running a substantial computer operation are called for along with the capacity to organise and co-ordinate the work of a wide range of groups.

Salary: £16,629 - £18,489 inclusive.

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To control the operation of the Council's primary computers and central network. In addition to staff management, responsibilities include directing installation planning and liaising with manufacturers and maintenance organisations.

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Salary: £14,781 - £16,545 inclusive.

The GLC is an equal opportunities employer. We invite applications from women and men from all sections of the community, irrespective of their ethnic origin, colour, sexual orientation or disability, who have the necessary attributes to do the job.

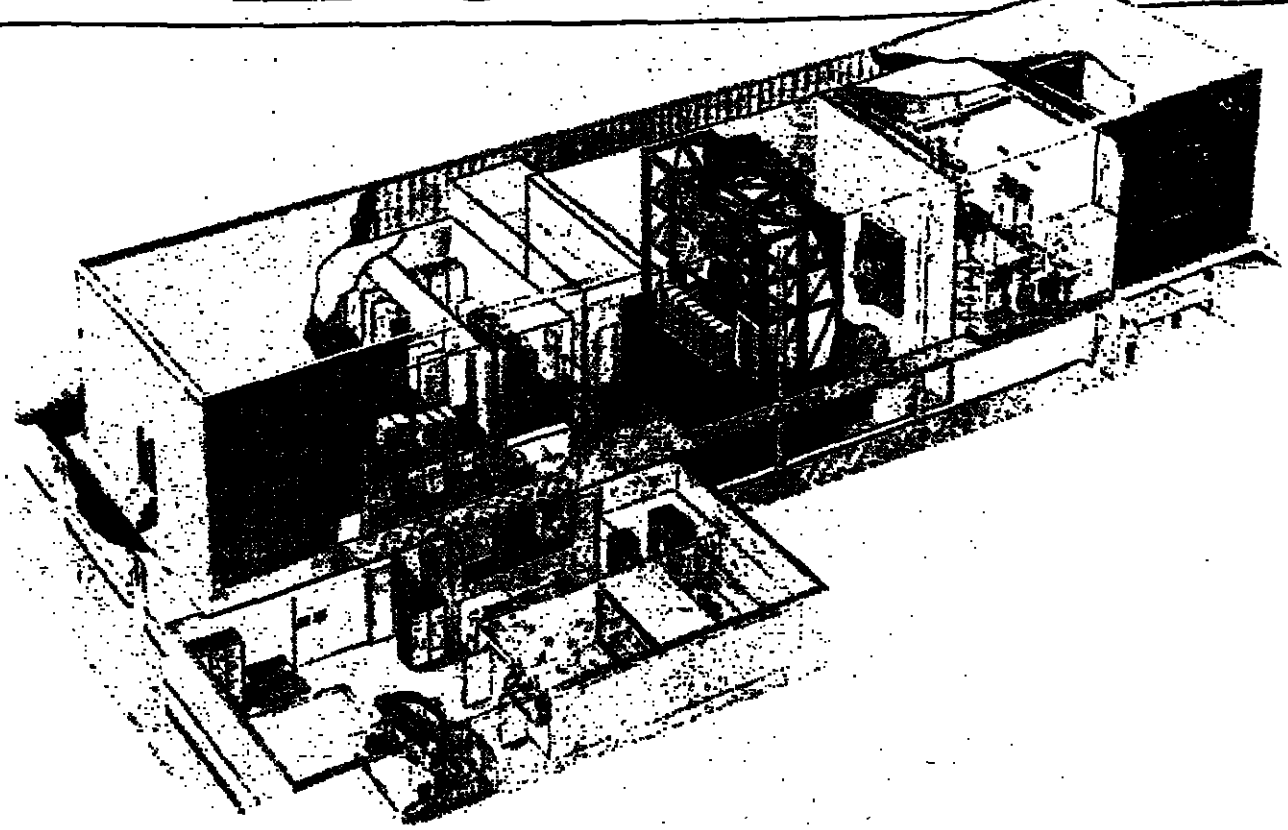
For an application form, to be returned by 22nd March 1985, write to: GLC Central Computer Services Department, Room 693, The County Hall, SE1 7PB or telephone 01-633 6085.

These posts are suitable for job sharing

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Applications are invited for a CEBG Research Fellowship in Numerical Analysis and its application to problems in the physical sciences and engineering to be based at the Central Electricity Generating Board and held in Hertford College. The successful applicant should have had three or more years' research experience, will be based in the Numerical Analysis Group of the Computing Laboratory and will be associated with existing research there. He or she will be required to make regular visits to the CEBG laboratories and to teach up to a maximum of six hours a week. The appointment will be for a period of three years initially, with effect from October 1st, 1985 with possible extension for a further two years. Stipend (personable and age-related) in the range £11,601 (£8) to £14,085 with rooms in College or a housing allowance. Applications, including cv and the names of three referees, should be forwarded to the Vice-Principal, Hertford College, Oxford OX1 2PH, from whom further particulars can be obtained. Closing date for applications: 22nd April, 1985.

SIMULATION ENGINEERS



JOIN THE LEADERS

British Aerospace has been a major user of simulation techniques for over 30 years.

Now, the Dynamics Group are investing approximately £25m in a major extension of their simulation facilities to be opened formally next June at Stevenage. This will create one of the most comprehensive facilities for Real-Time Hardware-in-the-Loop Testing of RF, IR and Optical Guided Missile Systems in the UK.

The simulation facilities are backed by a powerful complex of 32 bit superminis, array processors and hybrid computers. As a result of this extension, we now seek Simulation Engineers to join our team responsible for the facilities, at both junior and senior levels, and help the Group maintain its status as the leading supplier of weapon systems in the country.

A minimum of 4 years' appropriate experience backed by a degree in maths, physics, electronic engineering or computer science will be required.

Familiarity with FORTRAN on DEC/SEL equipment essential.

The work will involve the preparation, verification and validation of real-time models to include those used for hardware-in-the-loop simulation experiments.

Salaries will be negotiable on the basis of experience and qualifications with benefits appropriate to a company of our international standing. Relocation assistance, where appropriate, will be available.

In the first instance, interested engineers are invited to forward a c.v., or telephone for an application form, to: John Bull, Ref: C6558, Senior Personnel Officer, British Aerospace PLC, Dynamics Group, P.O. Box 19, Six Hills Way, Stevenage, Herts, SG1 2DA. Tel: Stevenage (0438) 312422 Ext. 3372 (Out of office hours Stevenage 312878).

BRITISH AEROSPACE DYNAMICS GROUP

Clarendon Laboratory UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

There are vacancies for postdoctoral research assistants in the following research fields:-

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The Clarendon Laboratory has just been chosen by the SERC as the first of the new centres for the growth of Low Dimensional Structures (LDS). Over £5.5M has been allocated initially to study the MOCVD growth of III-V heterostructures. There are close links with the semiconductor industry and the project will involve collaboration with industry. The successful applicant will work on the development and operation of the MOCVD equipment. Some experience in epitaxial growth, surface chemistry, deposition techniques and characterisation measurements would be an advantage. The post is funded as part of a rolling grant, initially until 31 December 1986 with the expectation of renewal. The starting date can be delayed until later in 1985 for a suitable candidate.

Apply to Dr. P.J. Walter.

POWDER DIFFRACTION

This project involves the development of the use of X-ray and neutron powder diffraction for ab initio structure determination with particular reference to inorganic materials. The post is funded by ICI under their Joint Research Scheme. Candidates should have experience in both X-ray crystallography and computing.

Apply to Dr. A.M. Glaze.

NEUTRON SCATTERING

Studies of thermally induced disorder in solids are being made as part of an ongoing research programme being carried out jointly with the UKAEA, Harwell Laboratory. Applicants should have experience in neutron scattering. The post will be for two years starting on 1 September 1985.

Apply to Dr. W. Hayes.

Applications, which should include the names of two referees and a c.v., should be addressed to the appropriate person named above at The Clarendon Laboratory, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PU.

PARKS ROAD OXFORD OX1 3PU

Resources and Planning Research

There are vacancies for up to 8 Senior Research/Research Officers in London and possibly Birmingham and Bristol. They will contribute to the analysis, formulation and monitoring of departmental policies, including work on the planning system of inner cities, urban and economic initiatives and land use issues, housing and transport fields.

Candidates for all RO posts should normally have a degree with 1st or upper 2nd class honours (where divided), or a post-graduate degree, in a relevant subject. Exceptionally others with experience of special value also considered.

For SRO posts, a degree with 1st or 2nd class honours, or a post-graduate degree in a relevant subject is essential together with significant post-graduate research experience (normally at least 3 years).

SALARY: SRO £9500-£11,920; RO £6015-£8735. Up to £13000 more in London. Starting salary may be above the minimum. Promotion prospects.

For full details and an application form (to be returned by 22 March 1985) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G(2)452.

Departments of the Environment and Transport

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer

UNIVERSITY OF READING 2 LECTURESHIPS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF TYPOGRAPHY & GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

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Candidates should have a central interest in the man-machine interface area of Information Technology. They should have experience of programming and be interested in exploring the relationship between typography and computer science. (Ref. AC.857)

2 THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TYPOGRAPHY

Candidates should have a good knowledge of both areas. They should have a special interest in teaching design procedures, studio-based activities, and workshop-based practices, and will be required to develop aspects of the theory of the subject. (Ref. AC.858)

Each appointment is from October 1, 1985. Salary scale £7,520 to £14,925 p.a. plus USSUSOPS benefits.

Further particulars and applications (2 copies) are available from the Personnel Officer, University of Reading, Whiteknights, P.O. Box 217, Reading, Berks. Telephone (0734) 875125, Ext. 220. Please quote appropriate Ref. No. Closing date 27 March, 1985.

SECRETARY

The Billiards and Snooker Control Council invite applications for the post of Secretary. The Council's Head Office is situated in Leeds. Duties will include attending to the statutory requirements of a Limited Company, day to day administration of the Council's affairs, a series of publications and products, indexing of References, preparation and circulation of Agenda and Minutes of meetings, and any other such administrative/secretarial duties that the Council may require.

The salary offered is based on the Sports Council Scale for Executive Officers and at present ranges between £4,728 progressing by six increments to £8,492.

Applications, with full details of age, previous career, academic and other qualifications, together with present appointment and salary and the names and addresses of two referees, to be sent to: The Chairman, The Billiards and Snooker Control Council, Coronet House, Queens Street, Leeds LS1 2TN.

Envelopes should be marked - APPOINTMENTS G2

Closing date for applications: March 31, 1985

CAPITAL APPTS

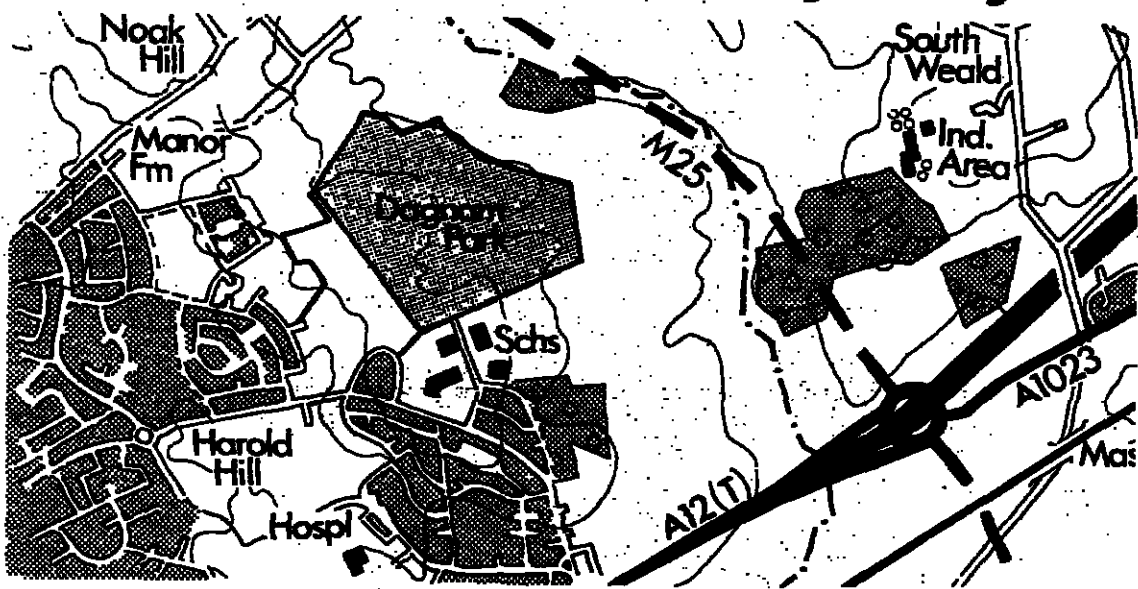
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Young Sales Professionals c.£12,000+Incentive+Car

Radio Communications Technology

It finds customers very easily



Could you?

It also finds them extremely enthusiastic... for the ways in which it makes their lives easier and their business more efficient.

Let's take a few cases in point.

In the factory, the Production Manager can rest assured that when the plant goes down, the balloon doesn't go up. In a crisis, he can contact and guide all his key personnel at the press of a switch.

Down on the farm, they'd be at a loss without it. Every Bo-Peep should have one.

On the construction project, communications and co-ordination has moved into the fast lane. And it's so simple to use that even Mick can get the radio off pat.

Up in the retailing sector of the city, everyone's taken to talking shop over the airwaves.

In the fast moving world of the 1980s, people need rapid communication more than ever. To summon help, issue warnings, co-ordinate and expedite services.

Finding customers is, as you can see, no problem. Our clients, name, after all, is the last word in advanced communication technology. Finding Sales Professionals of the calibre required to lead this revolution in personal communications is somewhat harder.

We're not looking for quick tongues, but sharp minds. Professionals whose imagination enables them to look into the workings of a commercial organisation. Pragmatic communicators who can translate a technology into its benefits.

Aged 25+, graduate calibre, you will already have excelled in a sales environment, the specific nature of which is not important.

For the right people, the rewards within this multinational, blue chip organisation will be high, and because they'd be lost without you the progression towards management rapid.

Your first step is to find out more, by calling Tim Grundy on (0992) 552552 or by sending your CV to him at: Macmillan Davies Personnel Consultants, The Old Vaults, Parliament Square, Hertford, Herts. SG14 1PU.



Microfilm Analyst

Moving fast into the future in Management Services

London EC2 Up to £11,352

British Telecom Management Services is making the most of microfilm. We're building up our resources, investigating new developments, and integrating new systems in all aspects of our operation.

To maintain this momentum we now need a Microfilm Analyst for an important role in new projects and systems installation.

This is an entirely new position and involves a high level of personal responsibility. Working closely with user departments you will have considerable involvement in selecting new systems and will exert influence in the design of equipment. In addition you will ensure that microfilm systems are integrated with other office automation facilities, and investigate new technologies, such as Optical/Video Disc

and Computer Aided Design.

To apply, you should have at least 2 years' experience in O&M analysis with specialisation in microfilm or records management. Or you could be an experienced microfilm production manager keen to move into systems design.

The position is based in London and may involve travel in the UK. Starting salary is up to £11,352, rising to £14,491.

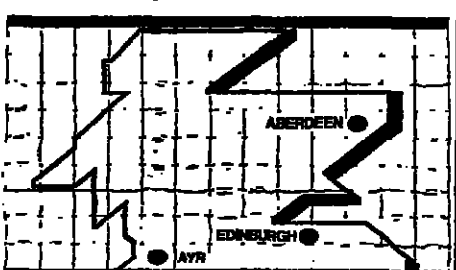
For further details please ring Alan Philpott on 01-432 3590. For an application form ring Ann Hulbert on FREEPHONE 2740, or write to her at British Telecom, Room 26/48, Euston Tower, 286 Euston Road, LONDON NW1 3DG.

Closing date for applications: 29th March, 1985.

British TELECOM

Scotland is one of Digital's most exciting and rapidly expanding markets and one of the widest - in both industry and geographical terms. With around 150 people based at our sales and service offices in Edinburgh and Aberdeen, we are currently expanding at a rate of over 40%.

Our customer base is one of the most diverse within the UK - from the financial and commercial centres of Edinburgh and the international oil communities of Aberdeen to the high technology markets of silicon Glen and the research establishments located throughout the highlands and islands. And with DEC's UK based manufacturing site at Ayr, we are in a unique position to serve the computer requirements of a steadily growing customer base.



DIGITAL IN SCOTLAND

digital

Software Services Manager

Who will value our customers as much as we do.

Digital is the world's second largest computer manufacturer and the world's leader in minicomputers. The power and versatility of our products will be familiar facts to professionals in the computer business, particularly so to the Manager we seek to lead the team of software professionals supporting our valued customer base throughout Scotland.

Your role will be to maintain and build upon existing customer service contracts by ensuring that all post sales activities are efficiently and professionally effected - from the installation, maintenance and enhancement of software, to on-site training and small scale application development projects.

You'll command respect amongst your colleagues by demonstrating an in-depth appreciation of the computer market, although we won't expect you to be an expert on DEC products initially. You should have spent around 5 years in a technical support role where the ability to work well with clients and maintain and develop good customer relations has been of key importance. You must be a first class manager; capable to motivate your staff and co-ordinate work closely to ensure your unit targets are met. Naturally, as your team will service our wide range of users across the whole region, you will enjoy a wide scope of project and customer involvement, which will necessitate a fair amount of travel.

We're looking for someone probably aged around 30 years who can make an immediate contribution in leading the team. Apart from the career opportunity of the role, there are also ample rewards - with a generous salary accompanied by a valuable benefits package including relocation where appropriate and a company car.

Please telephone for an application form or write with full CV to Bill Craig, Personnel Department, Digital Equipment Co. Limited, Peel House, Ladywell Road East, Livingston, West Lothian EH54 6AD. Tel: Livingston (0306) 413241. Ref: SF6.

MARKETING RESEARCH AND MARKET ANALYSIS

General Foods Limited is one of the country's leading food manufacturers. Our products - Maxwell House Coffees, the Bird's range of Desserts and Maxpaq Vending Systems - are household names. We have two vacancies as follows:

Marketing Research Executive - Salary range £12,400 - £15,500

The successful candidate will be responsible for all ad hoc marketing research on a portfolio embracing both coffee and dessert brands, including new product development. He/she will work closely with members of the Product Groups and with our Advertising Agencies. In addition to a practical, action-oriented approach to the provision, interpretation and presentation of data, it is vital that applicants should have a keen interest in consumer marketing and in the identification and analysis of marketing and advertising problems.

This is an excellent opportunity for a researcher with at least 3 years ad hoc experience in either an agency or on the client side to make an important contribution within a sophisticated and pathfinding research environment.

Market Analyst - Salary range £8,700 - £14,000

The main responsibilities are to monitor, analyse and report market trends and provide detailed medium and long term sales projections together with providing information with regard to specific market issues.

The Department works extensively with continuous market research sources and statistics, accessing and manipulating information through highly advanced micro-computer systems. It is essential therefore, that candidates have the relevant experience and technical ability to operate within these disciplines, providing management with information in layman's language.

Applicants should be graduates, preferably in Business Studies, Computer Science, or a similar appropriate discipline, with at least 2 years' relevant experience.

Both positions are demanding ones but the successful candidates can be assured of a rewarding experience and will benefit from a merit reward salary policy starting within the above ranges depending on experience.

Banbury, a pleasant rural town in Oxfordshire, offers moderately priced housing, good school, shopping and recreational facilities. A generous relocation package is available where applicable together with a range of benefits including 27 days annual holiday.



Please write to: Mr Gordon Pollard, Associate Personnel Manager, General Foods Limited, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 7QU.

URGENTLY REQUIRED

A very well known mechanical contractor and steel fabrication company requires No. 1

Mechanical Design Engineer

minimum 10 years' experience in oil field activities, ie pip spools, pressure vessels, storage tanks and heavy steel structure in accordance to BS and ASME standard. Ability to produce the necessary workshop fabrication DRGS, bill of quantity and cost estimate if required.

Salary UK currency DH 7000/- plus furnished flat plus free transportation.

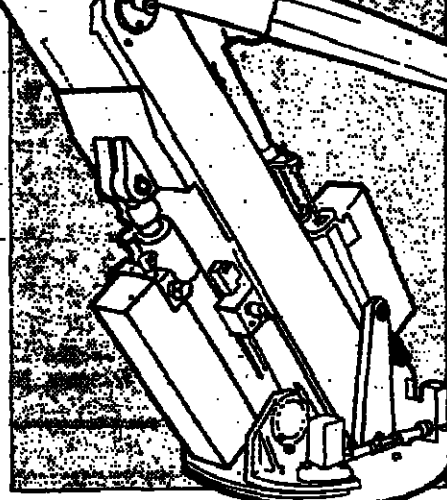
Send cv to: The General Manager, PO Box 2021, Abu Dhabi, UAE. Tel 554500; or for direct interview: Mr E. N. Hama, Holiday Inn, Marble Arch, London (15th, 18th & 19th March), showing cv plus any sample DRG.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
Telephone:
LONDON 01-276 2332
MANCHESTER 061-532 7200

TECHNOLOGY GRADUATES

advanced design and manufacturing projects offering industrial and university training

The University of Salford is collaborating with six major companies in the North West in the development of CAE, FMS, Robotics and automatic assembly. There are also projects involving the application of computers to quality management, materials handling, automated warehousing and O.R.



Engineers, Management Scientists and other technology graduates, preferably with some industrial experience, are required for two year projects which will be primarily industry based, but with University input.

These openings provide excellent opportunities for young graduates to enhance their technological knowledge and acquire highly relevant industrial experience.

Salaries will be negotiable according to age and experience.

Please apply to the Registrar, University of Salford, Salford M5 4WT for an application form, or telephone Mr. J. Butler (061-736 5843 ext. 7482) for further details. Please quote reference ME397/GDN.

UNIVERSITY of SALFORD

R & D ELECTRICAL MACHINES

Career Opportunity for Engineers

ERA Technology has an impressive record of innovative research and successful scientific achievement in commercial R&D with a particularly strong reputation in the field of power engineering.

Expansion of the Electrical Machines Group creates an important opportunity for a Senior Engineer to take a leading role within a broadly based team undertaking research, design and development contracts for UK and overseas clients.

The successful candidate will be responsible for varied and challenging projects associated with the development and application of numerical techniques and the design of varied

diverse electrical machines and related laboratory-based investigations. Through these projects, your skills and talents will be stretched and developed to their full extent.

The work requires a good first degree in electrical engineering and some years' related industrial experience in the design of electrical machines. A postgraduate qualification and/or experience in the application of numerical techniques to machine design would be a distinct advantage.

Rewards will include a high competitive salary, and substantial benefits including BUPA together with generous assistance with relocation to an attractive part of Surrey, if appropriate.

Contact the Personnel Manager, quoting Ref 44/87, at ERA Technology Limited, Cleve Road, Leatherhead, Surrey.

ERA TECHNOLOGY

Expanding Lloyds Broker

looking for a

DIRECTOR

to be responsible for its profitable Liverpool office, to develop its non-marine and financial services portfolio in the North West. Salary will probably be between £30-40 with a proven record. Salary and benefits negotiable, depending on experience.

All replies in strictest confidence to:

On 57, The Guardian, 164 Deodar Road, Manchester, M20 2PR.

LANSDOWNE COLLEGE

An independent College of Further and Higher Education offering programmes in Business and Computer Studies. Level 1, 2 & 3 degree business courses for West Herts College. Also special courses for the University of London External Degree. For the latest prospectus contact the Director, Lansdowne College, 100, The Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. SG9 6ND. Tel: 0494 511111.

qualified and experienced full and part-time teachers in the following fields: Computer Studies and Business. Also: Accounting, Public Relations, Law, Marketing, Business Organisation, Administrative Management, Banking, Finance and Liberal Arts Electives.

Please send a Curriculum Vitae to the Principal at Lansdowne College, 100, The Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. SG9 6ND.

TOP LONDON BROKERAGE

One vacancy remains for an experienced individual to work within a top West End firm. Potential earnings in excess of £12,000, superb opportunity to shape your own career, with company holidays and travel management potential. Ambitious graduates or commercially experienced individuals 23-35.

SEND ADRIAN SICKEL ON 01-429 7192.

STATISTICIAN

... to join the Statistics Division of the West Midlands Regional Health Authority's medical department based in Edgbaston, Birmingham. This career opportunity will involve you in:

- providing a statistical service to assist in the planning and monitoring of an identified range of health care services

- working closely with officers from other disciplines involved in the planning function and advising them on availability, acquisition, analysis and interpretation of relevant data

- both a large degree of independence and frequent contact with senior staff of all disciplines and thus carries a substantial responsibility for initiating and leading discussions

You should possess a degree in statistics or a related subject and have relevant experience primarily in the health service.

We are offering a salary commencing at £5,744 p.a. and rising on an incremental scale to £10,739 p.a. For further details and an application form please contact J. Quigley Ref MS31.

Personnel Division, West Midlands Regional Health Authority, First Floor, Cumberland House, 200 Broad Street, Birmingham B15 1SW. Tel: 021-643 5781, Ext 41.

Closing date for the receipt of completed applications is April 12th, 1985.

The WMRHA is an equal opportunities employer.

QUALIFIED TUTORS REQUIRED

for teaching all areas of Business Administration, Computers and EFL for UCBM centres in USA, UK and Northern Cyprus.

For interview ring 01-840 3883 or write to: Dean of Studies, University College of Business Management Studies, 21 Broughton Road, London W13.

TOUR OPERATOR

urgently seeks graduate for individual department. Capacity to work independently, accurately and under pressure, plus excellent organisational, communication and typing skills essential. Previous experience in travel and languages useful. Salary negotiable. Please write with cv to: Dept C.V., Cadok (London) Ltd, 1778 Old Bond Street, LONDON W1T 4BS.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS in The Guardian on Wednesdays

Leicester Polytechnic

School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering

Principal Technician

(COMPUTING AND CONTROL)

Salary £8,532 - £9,114 per annum.

Required to take charge of a small team responsible for the maintenance and development of undergraduate and research microprocessor systems and software.

An HNC in Electronic Engineering with a minimum of 5 years Control and professional computer applications is desirable.

Senior Technician

(CONTROL)

Salary £8,595 - £9,262 per annum.

To join a technical support team engaged in development, manufacture, test and maintenance of control equipment and systems.

You will work in support of teaching staff postgraduate research students and undergraduate project students.

Your industrial experience should include maintenance and testing of instrumentation and the construction of electronic systems; knowledge of microprocessors would be an advantage.

An HNC in Electronic Engineering is appropriate but emphasis will be placed on practical ability.

Both the posts offer opportunities for enhancing your knowledge, experience and academic qualifications. Relocation expenses payable in appropriate cases.

Application forms and further details can be obtained from: The Personnel Office, Leicester Polytechnic, P.O. Box 143, Leicester LE1 9BH. Tel: (0533) 551551 ext. 2363.

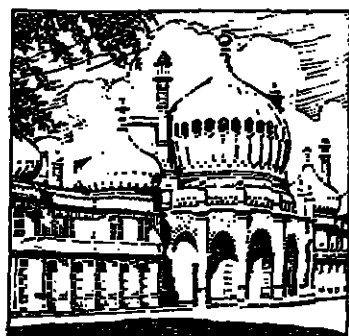
Closing date: 20th March, 1985.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

Applications are welcome from suitably qualified and/or experienced people regardless of race, ethnic origin, religion, sex, marital status or disability.

WHERE ARE SOFTWARE SPECIALISTS IN DATA COMMUNICATIONS MAKING WAVES ALL OVER THE WORLD?

The Mogul-inspired palace suggests Delhi or Baghdad, but the seaside setting could only be British. And the final illustration tells you where an

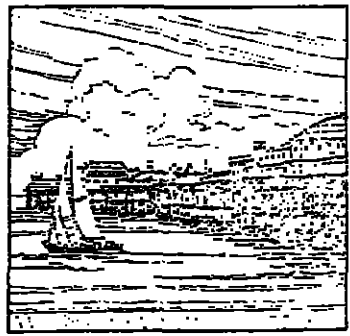


elite team of software professionals are getting to grips with stimulating challenges. They're based in the European Headquarters of American Express, in Brighton.

Here we're ready to expand our software team at various levels, working on the evolution of the worldwide network needed to sustain our leading edge in three major global services: travellers' cheques, travel services and the American Express card.

You'll find the prospects exciting if you want to pioneer in the design and development of real-time distributed networks in an advanced data communications environment — we are expanding the European

segment of a world-wide Point of Sale and Automatic Teller Machine network. We operate an IBM 3081 Q with satellite 4380's running MVS XA

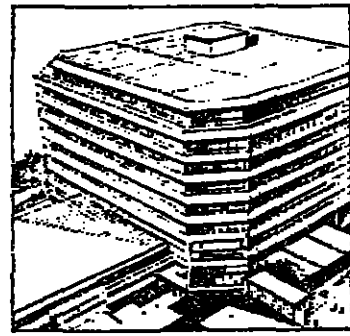


Packages to £17K

with a sophisticated SNA network comprising SNA gateways. Highlights of these packages include: a usually satisfying technological content — includes European travel; high level user contact; technical consultancy and outstanding prospects supported by technical and management training courses. Add to this the impact your input will have on the accelerated growth of American Express business worldwide and we think you'll see a

move to Brighton as a major career advance.

You could be one of the exceptional people we want to meet



If you've had:
★ 18 months experience of IBM Assembler and preferably data communications protocols such as SNA, BSC and N2S.

★ experience of systems design, hardware evaluation and communications consultancy.

Benefits include a subsidised mortgage, generous relocation assistance, a non-contributory pension scheme and the kind of lifestyle you'd associate with one of the best locations on the South Coast.

You've got the right credentials? Then get your CV in the post to: Annette Atwood, Personnel

Department, American Express Europe Limited, Amex House, Edward Street, Brighton, Sussex BN2 3JT.



DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT

Pioneer technology in a major international bank

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS

Design the City's most advanced dealing and treasury systems

Our client is one of the world's largest financial institutions and is undergoing radical changes and growth. They have a new product base, new people, and a new management philosophy, structured to take maximum advantage of the latest technology.

A far reaching systems strategy has been developed to meet the needs of one of the largest and most complex treasury and dealing functions in the City. There are exciting roles:

- In a new department working on pioneering development projects.
- At the leading edge of technology, utilising advanced systems techniques.
- In an environment that is 'technology-driven', and sees the systems area as the most crucial key to the future of the treasury division.

SENIOR ANALYST

£14,900 - 17,000

+ Mortgage benefits

This analyst will be engaged in identifying and defining business needs for the group and translating them into systems specifications. Applicants should have a minimum of four years' systems experience preferably using structured techniques. Of particular interest would be a knowledge of treasury or dealing systems gained in a financial institution or similar environment.

Candidates should be of graduate calibre, and must be able to communicate effectively at all levels of management. In this rapidly growing environment career prospects for ambitious candidates will be excellent.

Applications giving full career history should be sent to Kevin Byrne at the address below. Please quote reference 779 (and any companies to whom you do not wish your application forwarded) clearly on the envelope.

Anderson, Squires, Bank Recruitment Specialists, Blomfield House, 85 London Wall, London EC2

ANALYST

£12,400 - 14,200

+ Mortgage benefits

At this level, analysts will be engaged in the technical design of a variety of new on-line applications for the Treasury division. Preferably, applicants should be able to demonstrate some analysis experience in banking systems development, though this is not essential. A technical background, preferably gained in a programming capacity would be an advantage.

Anderson, Squires

RAPPORT®

The Professional's Choice

This is your opportunity to participate in the success of Rapport. Rapport, Logica's relational database management system is developed in London and marketed worldwide. Below is an outline of our current career opportunities.

Product Development Staff

To produce high quality product software to tight timescales, you will have one to two years previous development experience and be familiar with programming in Fortran or a high level structured language. Specific experience in database systems is desirable but not essential.

Marketing Consultant

To undertake a range of marketing activities including preparation of materials and presentations, competitive analysis and market research. Candidates with previous database experience or marketing experience would be of particular interest. Knowledge of Prime, VAX, IBM or ICL would be an advantage.

Prime Computer Manager

You will have responsibility for administering the group's Prime and other computer resources. A good knowledge of Prime is essential and previous systems administration experience would be useful. You may have gained your technical experience in field service or systems programming, and be seeking additional responsibility.

Support Consultants

To provide essential client and sales support, you will already have been working at a technical level with a commercial database and have a good understanding of customer needs. Alternatively you may have gained your systems experience on one of the machines on which we sell Rapport such as Prime, VAX, IBM, ICL and Data General Systems.

Training Consultant

You will be presenting and marketing courses to a wide range of Logica's clients, and responsible for the production and development of new course material. Good communication skills are essential for this job. You will need to demonstrate that you have gained these through your computing or teaching experience.

Highly competitive salaries will be offered. Applicants should have the drive and enthusiasm to work in a competitive and rapidly expanding business. If you can contribute to our further success, please write with full CV, or telephone Maureen Heydon on 01-637 9111; quoting ref: DPG/2.

Logica UK Ltd, 64 Newman Street, London W1A 4SE

Logica

Director

United Kingdom Trade Agency

£18,000-£20,000

The United Kingdom Trade Agency helps developing countries, particularly the poorest and least competitive, to promote their economic development through increased exports, especially to the United Kingdom.

The core budget is funded by the Overseas Development Administration and operates as a Department of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

This is a challenging position requiring a manager who will head up a team of up to ten people. The successful applicant will direct the work of the Agency which includes dealing with enquiries and arranging promotional visits to the UK from developing country exporters; advising UK importers and trade organisations of opportunities for expanding trade together with the arrangement and presentation of training courses.

As contacts are expected to be maintained with similar national and international organisations, it is envisaged that overseas travel will be necessary.

Candidates, aged between 45-62, will have considerable experience and understanding of the trade problems of developing countries. Preference will be given to applicants with a commercial background, particularly allied to training experience. Financial expertise would also be advantageous.

Comprehensive applications should be sent within 21 days of this advertisement quoting ref UKTA/TG, to: A. Wilson, Room E424, European Community Department, Overseas Development Administration, Eland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 8DH.



OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT
Britain helping nations to help themselves

Engineering & Science Graduates

The Teaching Company—
The fast intelligent path to tomorrow's technological and management positions

A collaboration between Universities and manufacturing industry, the Teaching Company scheme is particularly well established in the North West where UMIST is working closely with a number of major companies engaged in Advanced Manufacturing Systems.

- ★ Formed to develop the talent, experience and potential of high calibre engineers in an advanced industrial environment.
- ★ Supervised in depth by UMIST and the manufacturers.
- ★ Funded in collaboration by industry and the SERC/DTI.

To date the success of this initiative can be judged by the large number of engineers who as Teaching Company Associates have played a key role in CAD/CAM, robotics, LANS, production control, materials management, cost reduction, etc. al; who now occupy management positions.

This is your chance to develop your technical and management skills, to

further your post graduate education and to enhance your professional career and future prospects—significantly.

To fill one of the limited number of vacancies, you will have a good honours degree in engineering or a related science and a year or more of industrial experience.

Working mainly in the company and partly at UMIST for two years you will enjoy the benefits of the resources, expertise and support of both organisations whilst taking responsibility for key projects involving the very latest manufacturing techniques and technology in the solution of critical engineering and manufacturing problems.

For the successful Associate the objectives are an MSc and an opportunity to increase career potential by an appointment in the Company.

In the first instance, please write or telephone for an application form quoting Ref: M940/G.

PA

PA Advertising

Norwich Union House, 73-79 King Street, Manchester M2 2JL.
Tel: 061 236 4531.

Scientist — Gas Purification Studies

SW LONDON up to £13,005

A Scientist is required by our Chemical Plant Processes Group to undertake research into the thermodynamics of systems relevant to gas purification technology. The work involves experimental determination of solubility data at high and low pressures, and the representation of such data in a form of a database for use in chemical engineering design calculations.

Suitable applicants must possess a good honours degree in chemistry, physics or chemical engineering. Practical experience in the field of vapour-liquid equilibrium and the ability to use computer techniques to predict thermodynamic properties would be considered an advantage.

Starting salary will depend on qualifications and experience, but will be within the range of £7,791 to £11,014 or £13,005 (inclusive of Inner London Weighting).

For an application form and further details, please write to the Personnel Officer (Fulham), British Gas Corporation, London Research Station, Michael Road, Fulham, London SW6 2AD; quoting reference no. LRS 106.

BRITISH GAS

GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR

The Scientific Department of the Cancer Research Campaign requires

a graduate to take day-to-day responsibility for the administration of its many project grants to Universities and Medical Schools.

This is a new post, to be filled as soon as possible, which requires someone who is well organised, numerate as well as literate, and who is capable of taking on responsibility within a busy no smoking office. A knowledge of science, although not essential, will be an advantage.

The appointment will be on the Civil Service Executive Officer/Higher Executive Officer Grade (salary £7,895 — £9,793 plus non-contributory superannuation, according to age, experience and qualifications).

Further particulars can be obtained from the Administrative Officer, Cancer Research Campaign, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AR, to whom applications, including a full curriculum vitae and the names of two referees, should be sent by Friday, 29th March, 1985.

INTERACTIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS LTD.

IS is growing! We need more

COURSEWARE DESIGNERS
to work on a variety of interactive video projects. If you have experience in CBT or interactive video contact us. You could end up joining one of the U.K. leaders in the field with commensurate challenges responsibilities and financial rewards.

Send your CV to Gordon MacLeod, Director of Courseware Design.

IS LIMITED,
24 RAY STREET,
LONDON,
EC1R 3DJ.



SCOTTISH HEALTH SERVICE COMMON SERVICES AGENCY

SCOTTISH NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE PROTEIN FRACTIONATION CENTRE

QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER

Applications are invited for the above post based in Edinburgh. The post holder will be responsible for all aspects of Quality Assurance associated with the large scale manufacture of pharmaceutical products derived from human plasma and will be required to maintain integrated and modern systems of Quality Assurance throughout the Centre.

This is a senior management position and applicants will be expected to have previous relevant experience in a pharmaceutical manufacturing environment. Knowledge of biological processing and/or the principles of Good Manufacturing Practice would be an advantage.

Whitley Council Conditions of Service apply and the post will be graded on the Principal Biochemist scale. Salary scale £11,927 — £16,730 per annum.

Application forms and further information may be obtained from the Appointments Section, Common Services Agency, Trinity Park House, South Trinity Road, Edinburgh EH5 3SE. (Tel: 031-562 6256). Closing date for completed applications is 28th March, 1985. Please quote appropriate reference number U720/GU.

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER ENERGY STUDY UNIT

A post doctoral RESEARCH ASSISTANT is required to work on an SERC funded project concerned with the thermal response of buildings. The aim is to develop and verify a simplified representation of the dynamic response and to produce a model to run on a desk-top computer. The post is for c. 14 months to commence as soon as possible and may involve monitoring as well as modelling. A background in engineering physics or mathematics would be appropriate.

Commencing salary will be in the range £7,520 to £9,350 p.a. dependent on age, experience and qualifications.

Letters of application, containing the names of three referees, should be sent by 23 March, 1985, to Professor A. F. G. Wray, Department of Physics, University of Exeter, EX4 4QL, from whom further details may be obtained.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

UMIST

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS IN SOLID STATE ELECTRONICS

UMIST has attracted over HALF A MILLION pounds of research funding from the SERC and is now seeking to recruit research assistants to work in solid state electronics. The 50 strong SERC team has a wide range of expertise in solid state physics, materials science, electronics, etc. The research areas include: (1) Semiconductor devices, (2) Thin films, (3) Superconductivity, (4) Microstructure, (5) Surface science, (6) Quantum electronics, (7) Molecular electronics, (8) Organic electronics, (9) Electrochromic devices, (10) Electrochromic polymers, (11) Electrochromic pigments, (12) Electrochromic dyes, (13) Electrochromic inks, (14) Electrochromic coatings, (15) Electrochromic lenses, (16) Electrochromic mirrors, (17) Electrochromic windows, (18) Electrochromic displays, (19) Electrochromic sensors, (20) Electrochromic actuators, (21) Electrochromic transducers, (22) Electrochromic transmitters, (23) Electrochromic receivers, (24) Electrochromic antennas, (25) Electrochromic antennas, (26) Electrochromic antennas, (27) Electrochromic antennas, (28) Electrochromic antennas, (29) Electrochromic antennas, (30) Electrochromic antennas.

Experience of semi-conductor work or any of the above techniques will be an advantage but is not essential.

Commencing salary will be at appropriate point within the £5,500-£9,350 per annum.

Applications, quoting reference number ST/85/1, should be sent to the Director of the Science and Technology Department, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL. The closing date is April 1st 1985.

INTASUN TRAVEL MICROCOMPUTING ASSISTANT

Intasun Travel require a numerate graduate to assist in providing user support for their extensive micro-computing structure (based currently on Apricot). Reporting to the Accounting Systems Manager, this post encompasses commercial and financial projects utilising various high level software.

A knowledge of DBASE II and Lotus 1-2-3 is desirable. Commencing salary of c£7,000 (plus benefits) depending on experience, is envisaged.

Apply with full CV to David Frost, Accounting Systems Manager, Intasun Travel, Intasun House, 2 Cromwell Avenue, Bromley, Kent.

WHO DARES WINS

Investment banking isn't easy and we sincerely doubt you'll become a millionaire overnight. However as a professional and established company we will comprehensively train you to earn in excess of £12,000 in your first year. If you are presentable, ambitious and prepared to work extremely hard for the rewards you desire we offer an unrivalled career and commission structure and consider enthusiasm to be the best form of experience Age 21-35.

Telephone Mark James on 01-631 9844/7, 4 lines.

SALES PERSON

required to sell VIDEO TAPE & VIDEO DISC PRODUCTION SERVICES

Imagination, flair and experience essential

Write with CV to self yourself to Dick Fletcher, New Media Productions, 79 Parkway, London NW1 7PP.

GRADUATE SALES TRAINEES

Circa £8,000

A genuine career opportunity for self-starters and future Sales/Marketing Managers. Phone 01-351 2278 or send full CV to Mark Heron, ACS Coffee Service, 225 Hook Rise South, Surbiton, Surrey. KT6 7LD.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

London-based company has a number of vacancies to train people aged 21-35 into management positions due to its expansion programme

Telephone Julia on 01-439 6921 for interview

DIARY

PARANOIA has infected the right wing of the Young Conservatives over the election of national officers. Only constituency YC chairmen and eight others from each area can vote and their verdicts have to reach Central Office by tomorrow. Normally they're just posted in, but the Right are so convinced there was a jerry-rigged vote last year, when the so-called "wet" John Girthrie won 75 per cent of the votes for chairman, that they're leaving nothing to chance. In Wessex, Western and Eastern areas, elaborate arrangements have been made to collect the votes by hand, sealed in envelopes signed across the flap, and taken to Central Office where Mr Mark Worrell, the official handling the election, will be asked for a signed receipt for each one. If their favoured candidate, the bonny Trevor Elkins from Yorkshire, still fails to get in, they'll have to stop suggesting people are cheating and face up to their unpopularity.

NICHOLAS FAIRBAIRN, Tory MP for Perth and Kinross, writes to the Times to expand on its obituary of the famously eccentric Sir John Moncreiff of that ilk. "I have seen him stick a book into the temple of an American female in my drawing room in the faulty belief that she was someone else," he says. This throws more light on another tribute which said that "no lady who sat next to him at dinner ever wanted for entertainment."

THE ATTITUDE of a certain kind of company to the environment is occasionally revealed with perfect clarity. An internal memorandum from Mr A.L. Apelin, works manager at C.V. Polymers at Immingham, warns of the recent Anglian Water Authority analysis of the effluent from the effluent pipeline into the Humber, which his firm uses. "We must take all possible steps to minimise unacceptable discharges from our own plant so that attention is not drawn to ourselves," says the memo, leaked to Greenpeace.

"Obviously we cannot escape the fact that we will probably have to spend money on efficient treatment ultimately, but this money is non-productive and comes straight off the profits." Asked about the note, Mr Apelin said he was only reminding people of their duty and that his firm contributed only 1 per cent to the pollution of the Humber. "These things should not be quoted out of context," he added.

The Ministry of Agriculture, incidentally, had an interesting line in a recent press release about titanium dioxide, one of the main catalysts in the Humber. It says the fish swim round it.

WHILE we're on the environment, let's go down to Wincor in Dorset with PlainTalk, the newspaper of the Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive (NIREX). Canvassing views on life alongside the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, there, its reporters found two neighbours of the reactor who used exactly the same words: "If you are going to get leukemia, you are going to get it. They were housewives Dorothy Searle and Nicola Freeman. Equally phlegmatic was Robert Watt, a bricklayer. "If you're gonna go, you're gonna go," he said.

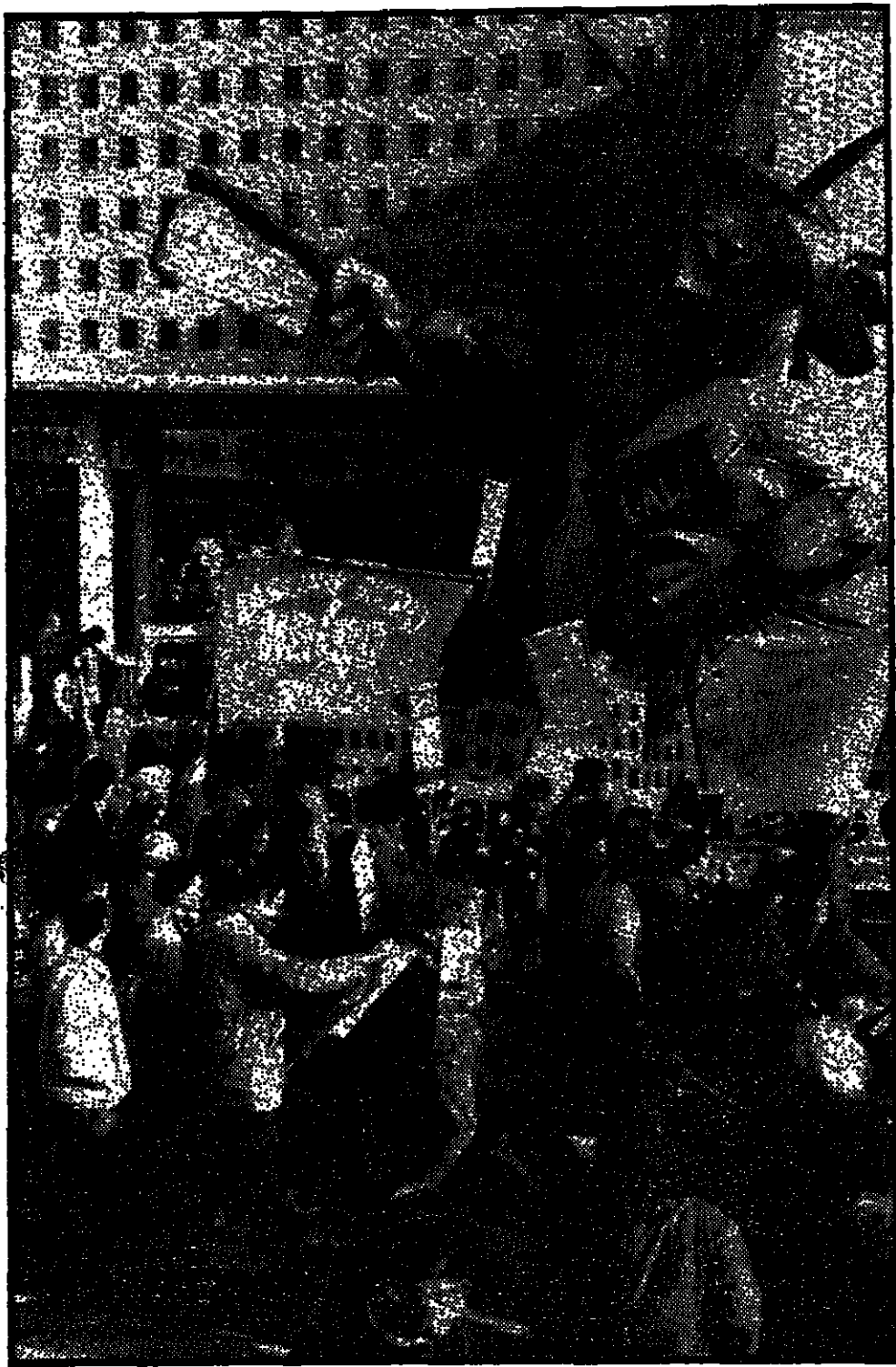
THE RITUAL confrontations of Prime Minister's question time are entering a new age of strategic thought. Tired of seeing Mr Kinnoch being dragged down on the knee-jerk issue of the day by the repetitions of a well-briefed Prime Minister, Labour's leadership has set up a team to choose issues which will find her without briefs. Robin Cook and George Foulkes are running the booby-trap squad.

WHAT on earth is Edwina Currie MP up to now? She was complimented on wearing "a good Tory colour" as she went through the Commons this week in a vivid blue dress with a white little girl's collar, and responded breezily that it was suitable for the occasion. Later, when she was seen dining with Salween Gum-Gum and Tim Sainsbury, a Tory whip, she was asked how to hold on to the party chairmanship. Answering for a whip's job herself? This kind of thing can only increase the unpopularity of the only Tory consistently heckled by her own side, which has nicknamed her Ethel to try to deflate her.

Stephen Cook

As Labour councillors vote today to refuse to fix a rate, JOHN CARVEL examines the situation in which they find themselves

Coming to terms with overblown rhetoric



Democracy Day demo in London yesterday. This is the climax of a nine-month campaign against the Government's rate-capping and rent-raising laws. Picture by Garry Weaver.

LABOUR councillors in most of the English rate-capped authorities will today walk through the division lobbies of their local councils in a well-orchestrated gesture of defiance against Mr Patrick Jenkin's attempt to force them to cut spending on jobs and services. With some exceptions, they will vote not to fix a rate — at least not yet.

Following Tuesday's rents rebellion in Scotland, and yesterday's "Democracy Day" demos around the country, this will be the climax of a nine-month campaign to discredit and if possible to defang the Government's new rate-capping and rent-raising laws.

The campaign can be seen on two levels. The first is an expression of outrage at what ministers are trying to do — and this has been an effective tool in moving public opinion. Trades unions, voluntary groups, and local communities have been mobilised to protest at central government's attempt to override local councillors' decisions on the level of service their people need.

What, after all, are local elections for, if what ever the result, Mr Jenkin ends up in control of the budget? Politicians from Ted Heath to Ted Knight have been in a matter of principle that the new law is wrong. This disquiet has been redoubled by recent Parliamentary exchanges during which Mr Jenkin has refused to give an explanation of how he determined the rate-cap limits — for fear that the courts would get the information to prove that his method was unreasonable.

But the Labour councillors have not just seen themselves as a glorified pressure group with municipal knobs on. On another level their leaders have also believed that they have the power to force the Government to retreat. Buoyed up by the early spirit of the miners' strike, they agreed in Sheffield last July on a policy of "non-compliance" with the new laws. Little by little this vague idea was sharpened up into a tactic of refusing to set a rate.

The theory was that the Government, faced with the united resistance of the main urban communities, would be forced to back down. It was always known that this "no rate option" would expose councillors to grave personal risks — of surcharge, disqualification and possible bankruptcy.

But — so the rhetoric went — if all stood together long enough, Mr Jenkin would back down. Some council leaders, like Mr Knight and Lambeth, warned that they would stop paying interest on local authority debts rather than cut services. They predicted that this would create a crisis of capitalism which would see the bankers rushing to Mr Jenkin's door, urging him to settle.

The Labour council leaders are now the victims of this rhetoric. Having argued that they should open up a second front to help the miners, they are now moving to create the illusion of savings from GLC abolition which in reality will be an expensive disaster.

This does not mean that the issue is yet resolved at the GLC and ILEA. The GLC Tories are so outraged at what they believe is Mr Jenkin's tactic that they are planning a spoiling move. When some Labour councillors (probably not including Mr Livingstone) move that a legal maximum rate be set, they mean to vote against it. They have a legal opinion from a barrister — named Mr Rich — which suggests that they may be able to do so without the risk of surcharge if they have previously unsuccessfully tried to move a lower rate.

Tory councillors are waiting to see if their former leader, Sir Horace Cutler, is willing to gamble the personal fortune his family gained from building large parts of North-west London on this hazy view, for which they have each chipped in £50. Another Tory Mr William Bell, is reported to own a significant portion of Manhattan.

The Tory group, led by Mr Alan Greenough, was unable to say this week whether his group was worth more or less than £100 million. Should the Tories stake these personal fortunes on a surcharge-risky vote against the maximum rate Labour will be left to wriggle off its own hook.

The GLC's predictable discovery that it can get by without cuts is likely to be replicated in other rate-capped councils over the next few weeks, although it is unlikely that any will discover quite so much financial leeway.

The row has happened first at the GLC because it, like the other upper-tier authorities, has a statutory obligation to set a rate by

March 10. For the lower-tier boroughs and districts, the deadline is less pressing. It can be predicted that, as the next weeks go by, most of them will "discover" ways of getting through the next year without making cuts. Some of them, like Haringey and Lewisham, would have found this much easier if they had been allowed to renegotiate rate limits with the Government which, in some cases, set the figures unintentionally harshly.

But even if the councils do all in the end fix a rate, this does not mean the Government has won. Mr Jenkin will for a while cry about the retreat of the "loony Left." Yet he will have failed in the main aim of his policy. For cuts will not actually be made — at least not in many places and not by very much.

So what will he do in Year Two of the policy? Will he tighten the screw, forcing the councils to choose between serious cuts and defiance? Or will he ease off and allow the councils to replenish the balances which they are raiding to get this time? This, in the end, is what today's battle is about. Although Mr Jenkin has planned it this way, it is a dummy run, a warning to the Government of what might be.

Can Mr Jenkin really persist with a policy of intransigence he dare not explain to Parliament? Can he believe that Whitehall can get it right, so that cuts are applied in local areas which are not too much and not too little?

As the Minister ponders these problems, he should be aware that his policy is doing more harm than good. Conventions of prudent municipal accounting are being destroyed. Labour councils are being deterred from making the genuine value-for-money improvements recommended by the Audit Commission for fear that they will be interpreted as cuts by local constituency parties. And the Government cannot hope to make progress in tackling Britain's serious inner city problems if it continues to undermine the "partnership" between Whitehall and town hall upon which solutions are supposed to rely.

The message to Mr Jenkin must be: back off. Even from the Treasury's point of view, this battle is not worth the candle ends.

Consul on the Huangpu River

After 25 years, reports JOHN HOOPER from Shanghai, the British are back

IN SHANGHAI, the most conventionally-dressed foreigners attract long curious stares, so it is difficult to imagine the impression that Trevor Mound will make.

Mr Mound is the first British consul-general to set foot here in a quarter of a century, and not only has he a penchant for lavender capes and Herdwick caps ("please don't call them deerstalkers"), but he also plans to drive around in a royal blue London taxi, which is now being shipped out from Britain.

Part of the reason is that he damaged his back parachuting and finds it difficult getting in and out of ordinary cars. "But I also wanted something that would be typically British and I couldn't think of anything more British than a London taxi."

With his neatly-trimmed beard and gold-rimmed, half-moon spectacles, Mr Mound is an appropriately anachronistic figure in a city where it often seems as if nothing has changed since the Twenties when Shanghai was in its riotous heyday.

The incongruous mock Tudor mansions which wealthy merchants built have simply got dirtier and dustier. All that has been added to their art deco interiors are the stains on the carpets and the cracks in the mirrors. Sassoon House, where Noel Coward wrote *Private Lives*, has become the Peace Hotel, but its British suite still boasts a baronial fireplace.

The Bund, the Boulevard beside the Huangpu River, where bankers and boat-swains once rubbed shoulders

with remittance men and good-time girls, is called Hongshan Road these days, but its massive office blocks still rebound to the majestic boom of fog horns.

Most remarkable of all, perhaps, the Shanghaiese have retained their commercial enthusiasm and cosmopolitan outlook almost as the last 25 years have never happened. Taking advantage of the Chinese government's open-door policy, Shanghai's economy has been growing at an annual rate of 10 per cent. At the end of last year, the city was made the centre

of a Greater Economic Zone that also takes in the four neighbouring provinces and has a total population equivalent to that of the United States.

The change in policy and the growth of opportunity have lured back the British. Businessmen. So far, only 12 British firms have a permanent representative here, but many more are sending out executives for occasional visits. Hence the return of the consul-general.

Formerly an officer in the Parachute Regiment, Mr

Mound first came into contact with the Chinese in Malaya and subsequently learned Mandarin while serving in Hong Kong. Although at 37 he was a late entrant to the Foreign Service, he has had as varied a selection of postings as many a career diplomat. In 1976, he won an OBE for his part in the evacuation of Beirut.

But what recommended him for the Shanghai post was the experience he gained during the three years (1973-81) he spent as commercial counsellor in Peking. Nevertheless he cautions that "the

longer you stay in China, the less you understand."

Working with a staff of three Britons and six Chinese, Mr Mound will play a crucial role in deciding whether Britain capitalises on the goodwill which is evident in China in the wake of last year's Hong Kong agreements. By the time he departs it will probably be clear whether British businessmen have succeeded in re-establishing themselves in the town that their forebears transformed from a fishing port into one of the world's richest and raciest cities.

PAUL ELLMAN in San Salvador on the changing strategy of the guerrillas

Rural insurgency or urban insurrection?

Salvadoran National Guard on patrol in San Salvador. Picture: Mike Goldwater

UNDER heavy pressure in the rural areas once dominated, the Salvadoran guerrilla movement has committed itself to a new long term strategy and begun rebuilding its political bases in cities and towns. In the process, the number of its main force active combatants is believed to have dropped to no more than 2,000, or about a quarter of the number involved a year ago. This is the considered view of foreign military analysts here.

The war is different now. "The way is different now," says Comandante Geronimo, a senior guerrilla commander who left the northern province of Chalatenango in January to resume political work in the capital. The priority is to protect our civilian base of support while we build new popular organisations."

The new strategy is intended to reconstruct the peasant, labour and student groups which organised mass demonstrations in 1979 and 1980 and which, before they were brutally crushed, appeared to be on the verge of emulating the victory of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. While the Sandinistas now

seek an accommodation with the United States, American aid has ensured that the Salvadoran armed forces are able to deny an outright military victory to the guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Comandante Geronimo, interviewed in a "safe house" in the capital, is a senior commander in the People's Liberation Forces (FPL), the oldest of the five groups that make up the FMLN and the one most committed to Marxist-Leninist doctrine. He sees the revolutionary left's best hope as trying to exploit over the long term the discontent generated by the decline in the Salvadoran economy which has produced a fall in real incomes of a third during the last five years.

"The economic crisis the workers face can be very beneficial to us," he commented. His assessment is shared by trade union leaders involved in the labour federation known as the Musyges (United Union and Guild Movement) which has been linked in the past with the

political wing of the insurgent General Paul Gorman, in his last appearance before Congress as head of the US Army's Panama-based Southern Command, told the Senate Armed Services Committee Washington last week that intelligence reports indicated that some 500 guerrillas had moved into San Salvador alone.

General Adolfo Blandon, the chief of staff of the Salvadoran armed forces, estimated that the group's main force was estimated to contain about 9,000 men. He said a study was currently underway to re-evaluate the situation to take into account the slackening of activity.

Recent visits to guerrilla areas appear to confirm that many have moved out of their strongholds, leaving the defence of their civilian supporters in the hands of boys, much bigger than their weapons.

Foreign military analysts report that the estimated 2,000 combatants still active have dispersed into small units to avoid detection by US reconnaissance flights or by Salvadoran ground forces who, according to General

Blandon, carried out 19 major operations and 650 minor ones in the first two months of this year.

Although the principal focus of the new guerrilla strategy is political, there has been a noticeable increase in political violence since the beginning of this year, and the guerrillas are still expected to try to stage some spectacular action before the legislative assembly elections scheduled for March 31.

Military analysts suggest that the guerrillas may ultimately feel sufficiently emboldened by political progress to use their considerable combat skills to launch a new wave of urban warfare.

The change of strategy is seen as reflecting the ascendancy of the FPL which has long adhered to their doctrine of a prolonged people's war, over the other five FMLN groups, particularly the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), which once dominated the military scene in eastern El Salvador.

The ERP, commanded by Joaquín Villalobos, began operating like a regular army

in the latter part of 1983, with hundreds of men moving about the countryside in trucks attacking government positions.

In a series of spectacular successes, the ERP briefly occupied San Miguel, the country's third biggest city, and captured 60 other towns and villages. But their large formations left them vulnerable to the rapidly increasing firepower and surveillance capacities of the Salvadoran command, and the ERP has now dispersed into small groups.

Comandante Geronimo of the FPL attributes the ERP's failure to its inability to recognise the long-term importance of political work. "Machismo hasn't disappeared from our ranks," he comments wearily. "There are many rebels who think that with their guns they can get what they want."

Nevertheless, returning to the cities to rebuild political support involves a calculation which the recent history of repression shows could backfire. Looking to the organising work ahead of him, Mr Villalobos, began operating like a regular army

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It's so comforting to know that the MF Samantha works for is gay...
M...
M...

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Lord Gowrie is pinning his hopes on business sponsors to provide new money for the arts. But, as Nicholas de Jongh reports, the Inland Revenue is busy killing incentives to potential donors as fast as the Arts Minister is creating them

Why the taxman is scaring away the angels



TODAY we should hear whether a great pageant is to be disbanded: the Greater London Council is due to announce whether it can and will continue to finance the arts in London. Informed observers believe that, despite all the fear-mongering, the money is there.

The Council says it has increased its funding in the last six years by 14 per cent. There is a well-publicised dread that in the forthcoming, rate-capped year it will have to reduce its arts budget by £20 million. Scarcely any arts organisation in the capital—and there are 400 great and small—would be impervious to such a blow.

Sir Peter Hall, special pleader extraordinary, has said that if the National loses its £750,000 of GLC money, then not only the Cottesloe will go dark—the lights will go out throughout the South Bank theatre. And there are scores of smaller

companies the GLC has brought to life, or at least provided with finance, that have no alternative source of funds.

If 1984 has brought gloom to the world of the arts 1985 already threatens to bring despair. For by then, the GLC and the metropolitan authorities will probably have gone down. The arrangements that Lord Gowrie, the Arts Minister, has made to make up for the shortfall in arts funding from these authorities will themselves fall short by some £3 million. The minister will provide only £18 million to be distributed by the Arts Council, although it is said that he has a few million more wrested from the Treasury up his sleeve.

It is in his interest to hold some money in reserve in the hope of encouraging the district councils to take over some of the arts funding provided by the metropolitan counties. But at a time when rate-capping is likely to impose its own iron rigidities, the chances of local councils becoming artistic angels seems very remote.

What, then, are the alternatives? Sponsorship seems to be the Government's last resort. And sponsorship offers strictly limited opportunities. Colin Tweedie, the director of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts calculates that about £15 million was provided for the arts by business last year. And he hopes there will be more in 1985. But his optimism is qualified by the fact that Inland Revenue

tax inspectors now seem to be threatening this trail life-line for the arts.

Tweedie calls the tax system in relation to the arts "lunatic." Most companies, he suggests, dislike the system of contributing money for a four-year period for any artistic company registered as a charity. It is true that organisations which accept this arrangement will get their tax back, but it commits a business to spending money which it may not be able to afford in hard times. As a result companies turn to an alternative system. If they are able to put down their arts sponsorship as part of their marketing or advertising expense it is tax deductible.

In the past, says Tweedie, "the Inland Revenue has turned a blind eye where the sponsorship is only philanthropic and there's no advertising. But it has always been up to the discretion of Inland Revenue inspectors to say that they want to see programmes for the events sponsored. And some of the Revenue people are becoming over-zealous."

In America the system is different. The individual who wishes to sponsor an arts organisation or event can take advantage of the fact that up to ten per cent of pre-tax profit is exempt from tax. The English tax system does not allow this.

In any case, even ABSA, recognises that this sponsorship is not a panacea allowing the government to escape its commitment to arts funding. Private sponsorship is too risky, too impermanent. Once a building-based arts

company becomes dependent on private sponsorship, the whole enterprise is threatened if the sponsor decides to withdraw its contribution. The search for alternative private investment is never easy. And now, as Tweedie emphasises, there is in Bristol an entire Inland Revenue section trying to eliminate sponsorship loopholes. If the scrutiny becomes too rigorous then companies, philanthropy will be strained.

Lord Gowrie, who is the Government's chief economic spokesman in the House of Lords as well as Arts Minister, rules out the possibility of any changes in the tax laws to make gifts by individuals easier. If Britain was to follow the American method of taxation, then the Treasury would seek a corresponding reduction in government arts subsidy. And Gowrie would not be disposed to fight such a Treasury decision: for although he is, in his literary, theatrical and cinematic tastes, the most modern-minded Arts Minister we have had, he is also the drier.

His business sponsorship scheme, to which £1 million a year has been committed, seeks to encourage private aid to the arts with government "challenge" money, as the Americans describe it. The Government will give £100 for every £300 provided by business organisation, up to £25,000. And such a system does provide a tiny incentive to set against the Inland Revenue's depredations.

It is also true that some major businesses now seek to sponsor smaller, regional and

community arts organisations, not wholly for altruistic reasons. Companies are often able to make a larger impact by taking their subventions to smaller places. The American Citibank chain, established here since 1982, is one example.

Norma Jaboe, the bank's director of corporate affairs, spent £200,000 in 1984 on arts sponsorship (a minute amount in Arts Council terms), and this year gives One For The Road, a new theatre production which starts life in Wolverhampton, the Scottish National Orchestra, London Festival Ballet's touring production of *Bohème* and Juliet, the Bournemouth Sinfonietta, and a British American art show in Birmingham and Edinburgh.

Tweedie points to BP's support of Extemporary Dance Company, National Westminster Bank giving to small regional theatres, and IBM to the London Sinfonietta. He reckons a total of about £1 million is going annually to what might be described as the artistic fringe with maybe more to come. "Big banks are saying, we must do something for the small community arts group and arts on the fringe. And businesses realise that they neglect, the ethnic arts at their peril."

Literature, on which the Arts Council spends least and for which it has cut its budgets most, is the one area where it remains depressingly hard to attract sponsors at all, unless for literary prizes.

TOMORROW: Why arts subsidy makes sound investment.



Extemporary Dance Company — helped by BP

Ronald Atkins reviews the latest jazz releases

String swing

Stephane Grappelli—Staff Smith: Violin No. 10 (Pablo 2310-907). "If you don't know what it is, you ain't got it," says Duke Ellington once said, "fucks up the place."

Swing, of course, is not that easy to define and long live the mystique. Someone seeking a little insight could do worse than sample this LP because the protagonists approach the beat so differently. Grappelli uses a lot of notes and prefers a light, frothy accompaniment, which he rarely gets from this very American rhythm section. Smith, a pioneer of the amplified violin, goes in for stabbing, propulsive phrases that leave holes for the rhythm to surge through. Listen to *Nin Points Today* where, graceful menderings, Smith comes on like a demented hyena and lends to a good old-fashioned ride out. Some tracks come from a concert without Grappelli; these include a surprisingly graceful *How High The Moon* and a manic *Desert Sands*, on which Smith again ends up imitating a tenor-saxophone. An acquired taste, but no denying the man's ebullience.

Art Ensemble Of Chicago: *The Third Decade* (ECM 1273). Restrained, almost academic, the AEC perhaps acknowledge that what is visually and aurally compelling needs to be tighter on record. A range of styles is covered and the music comes through that the Ensemble can do many things well and some extremely well. The opening *Prayer For Jimbo Kwesi* sounds uncannily like a Highland lament at times and builds collectively at a loping pace. Another exceptional track is *Zero*, orthodox jazz with deft *flourish* from Bowie whom I had not previously rated as a straight-ahead blower.

Harace Parlan Quintet: *Glad I Found You* (Scepter/SCE 1184). Performing in an idiom where good taste was at a premium, Parlan always stood out as one of the few so-called funk pianists worth a listen. He has put together a typically serviceable LP, though the main reason for investing in it is the presence of Eddie Harris. Harris, you may recall, became popular by playing electric saxophone. Switching off, as it were, he comes across as a witty improviser, full of leaps and scoops—like a more agitated version of our own Bobby Wells.

Ganelin Trio: *Strictly For Our Friends* (Leo LR 120). An early LP by the Russians that adds weight to claims that Vyacheslav Ganelin should be regarded as a leading strategist of improvised music. I would claim him with John Lewis and possibly Joe Zawinul: not because the trio sounds remotely like the MJQ or Weather Report but because in each case the group's identity comes from a very diverse and a very flexible approach to structured material.

If Lewis were 20 years younger he might be producing suites very similar to this one. Most of the eight movements are built round simple devices that form the basis of the improvisations. The same, surely, for example, have similar themes: one leads to a rather spooky abstraction; the other to a delicious ballad.

Vladimir Chekasin: *Nostalga* (Leo LR 1181). Pursuing the Ganelin/MJQ analogy, one could say that Chekasin is more like Ganelin's John Lewis, which leads to a re-casting of the old argument—in this version, does the pianist hold back the saxophonist? As one who tends to prefer Jackson in the disciplined context of the MJQ, I now feel the same about Chekasin after hearing him on his own.

There are fine moments, notably the opening cadenza and the closing ballad, but emotion dominates over intellect whereas the two are nicely balanced in the best of Ganelin. The fact that Chekasin here sounds very like Gato Barbieri suggests, perhaps unkindly, that if left to himself he would finish up with a stereotype.

Joe Pass/J. J. Johnson: *We'll Be Together Again* (Pablo 2310-911). An unlikely duo that comes off. Johnson's purr and capacious tone has seldom been so faithfully recorded and, notably on *Solar* and *Limbo Blues*, he copes very efficiently without the usual rhythm to back him up. Such an LP is ideal for Pass: he is used to playing unaccompanied and yet he does not have to carry all the musical interest on his shoulders.

Carla Bley: *I Hate To Sing* (Watt 123). A jockey number with too many jockey numbers. Still, the *Ar-ranger* has excellent solos and *Battleship* is effectively programmatic. Unlike her previous LPs this one does at least sound like authentic Carla Bley.

STUDY TOUR OF JAPAN — ESSAY CONTEST 1985

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan invites entries for an Essay Contest from which 55 participants will be selected for a 2 week Study Tour to Japan. It is anticipated that the visit will take place some time between late August and late September 1985.

The object of the Study Tour is to promote understanding and to strengthen ties between Japan and Europe. The Tour will offer the opportunity of studying the political, economic, social and cultural aspects of Japan at first hand.

SUBJECT TITLE:

"My view of Japan"

The essay should be an analysis of the writer's perception of contemporary Japan.

LANGUAGE

English, French or German

LENGTH

2,000 - 3,000 words together with a brief summary (not more than one page). Must be typewritten.

ESSAYS NOT ACCEPTABLE

Those already written or published, either previously by the entrant or by any other person.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

a) Open to nationals of EEC countries and people connected with EEC organisations who are presently resident in EEC countries. b) Participants must be aged between 18 and 34 on 1st April 1985. c) Previous visitors to Japan not eligible. d) Front page to include Full name, date of birth, sex, nationality, address and telephone number, occupation and place of employment, how you heard of this contest and whether you have entered previously and preferred date for the visit: late August 1985 / mid-September 1985 / late September 1985. e) Entries are non-refundable. f) Essays will be accepted between 1st March and 15th April 1985. g) Four copies of everything including the summary.

SELECTION

Selection will be on the basis of the essay and an interview.

ESSAY TO BE SENT TO:

Miss A. Coleman, Essay Contest, Japan Information Centre, (Embassy of Japan), 9 Grosvenor Square, London W1X 9LB

LEEDS

Gerald Lamer

Traviata

THE CURTAIN rises on Opera North's new *Traviata* with the beginning of the prelude to reveal Alfredo wandering disconsolately around furniture shrouded in dust sheets. Are we about to see the opera of the film?

Actually, no. Francois Rochaix's production is reverting here to the Dumas novel. Besides he soon forgets the flashback framework and concentrates his attention on the actualities. He is so good at it, so successful in registering a state of mind in a single gesture that it is difficult to believe that such an intelligent and thoughtful director could split the work right down the middle by placing the interval between the two scenes of Act Two.

The second scene of the second act (at Flora's in Paris) is a direct consequence of the first (at Violetta's in the country) and in the story follows it within the day. The unfortunate effect of this arbitrary break is that the dramatic intensity, so convincingly contrived in the first half of the evening, is dissipated.

Helen Field excels herself as Violetta in the first half. It is a remarkable performance, beautifully sung,

socially secure, yet fragile. The vulnerability shows through every more touchingly in the next scene where Jonathan Summers as Germont so persuasively applies the moral pressure, his story exterior crumbling just enough to reveal the compassion behind it.

With Adrian Martin as Alfredo generally more accurate than in his hit-and-miss singing in the first act, the production is at its best at this point. But it falls away after the interval, and Miss Field's reserves are evidently exhausted by having four-fifths of her role concentrated into one act.

Roderick Brydon, who conducts so sensitively where individuals and their intimacies are involved, quite fails to celebrate the party atmosphere at Flora's (as he had failed at Violetta's at the beginning of the first act). Neither the confrontation between Alfredo and Doulphor Germont's is effectively registered.

The loss of atmosphere is attributable too to the design of Rochaix's Swiss colleague, Jean Claude Mare. His sets are handsome in the authentic neo-classical manner but curiously frugal. However, to the extent that it diverts attention from the external to the emotional internal—Rochaix's production and Brydon's often inspired conducting—the design's loss is the production's gain.

STRAND

Michael Billington

Why Me?

TEN YEARS ago Neil Simon wrote a play about a modern-day Brooklyn Heights. *God's Favorite*. Stanley Price has had a not dissimilar idea in *Why Me?* with the crucial difference that the setting is South London. God does not appear, and the comedy focuses on the role-reversal demanded by the Thatcherite recession. Not, you may think, a subject for laughs, but Mr Price has come up with a bright, alert, deftly-observant play.

The premise is simple: the hero, a civil engineer, finds himself suddenly sacked in middle-age; his wife, meanwhile, runs a thriving pizza factory. Curling up morosely on the sofa with the Book of Job, the protagonist finds himself smitten with the modern equivalent of plagues and boils—the humiliation of being passed over in the job-market for younger, less qualified men, the indignity of enforced idleness, the private problems of a gender-bending son and an interventionist mother-in-law.

At least Mr Price's hero has the consolations of a tarnished-cherry hand-hake and an affair with a lonely housewife next door. But Mr Price savagely argues (like Ibsen and Strindberg before him) that the law of change must operate and that we must learn to adjust to these economically blighted times.

It is not *The Boys From*

The Black Stuff, and obviously. Price works within the formal demands of West End comedy. But the sack is still a brutal business, even for the middle classes, and the play captures well the agony of toasting for work, of putting up with faint sneers as you bank the pitiful dose, and of knowing there is no place even for a qualified engineer who builds schools and hospitals ("We haven't got money for luxuries like that nowadays").

Without beating drums or waving banners, Mr Price makes the point that in these sour times joblessness saps social confidence; and, more positively, that men and women must behave as equal partners rather than as breadwinners and dependants. Bad comedy has nothing to say: good comedy (like this) is tethered to the real world.

Richard Briers manages to make the bloodhound-faced hero funny, and it would be hard to better the timing of his lugubrious acknowledgment of his wife's chesecake. Diane Fletcher as the thriving wife has too little to do, but Polly Hemmings is bright-eyed as the next-door neighbour. There is fervent support from Liz Smith, the cruelly-treated mother-in-law, and from Ian Targett as the Bowlesque son who has been dragged-up from the middle classes. Robert Chetwyn directs briskly.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

BIRMINGHAM

Barry Still

CBSO/

Atherton

AN ACKNOWLEDGED Stravinsky specialist, David Atherton conducted performances of two works which in their authenticity and grasp of idiom will have delighted devotees.

In the symphonies of Wind Instruments the antiphonal groupings both in timbre and mood came over perfectly, with their melodic and harmonic echoes of the Rite of Spring, which was heard later. Only some fractional misjudgment in brass chording marred a reading of classic proportions.

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra is capable of playing with more inclusive co-ordination, though the Rite also made compelling listening. Atherton displayed steadfast fidelity to the score, care over dynamic levels and a keen awareness of the richness of instrumental colour. It was its very unaffected nature which made this an interpretation of such thrilling power.

The question of authenticity surfaced again when Iona Brown (who will be the CBSO's guest conductor for three years from next season) appeared as director/soloist in a Bach coupling. The E major violin concerto was a case in point. The accompanying tutti used a compact, controlled style while Miss Brown's treatment was nothing less than romantic, a dichotomy not fully resolved even in the finale, where there was little time for delay and sweetness.

Bach's genius, however, survives most trials. In the Third Brandenburg concerto he was handsomely served, and Miss Brown's vibrant personality inspired her group of soloists to convincing and exhilarating account of the work.

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Times

BBC Kaleidoscope

The Shooting Party

Based on the novel by Ted Colclough

CASTING BY JANE GILBERT

PRODUCTION DESIGNER: JANE GILBERT

EDITED BY JANE GILBERT

PRODUCED BY JANE GILBERT

SCREENPLAY BY JANE GILBERT

DIRECTED BY JANE GILBERT

CASTING BY JANE GILBERT

PRODUCTION DESIGNER: JANE GILBERT

EDITED BY JANE GILBERT

PRODUCED BY JANE GILBERT

SCREENPLAY BY JANE GILBERT

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SCREENPLAY BY JANE GILBERT

DIRECTED BY JANE GILBERT

CASTING BY JANE GILBERT

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

TIME was when many of our best writers would not be seen dead writing for the screen, or at least the cinema. Which is why so many British films invariably sounded the same, even when they looked different. Curiously, David Hare's *Wetherby* (Curzon West End, 15) is about inhibitions but, both as writer and director, he has triumphantly cast them aside.

Set in present day England, the film focuses on a certain middle-class strata, east comfortably adrift in the Thatcher era with nowhere to go and emotionally incapable even of spirited reaction. And what Hare lays out before us in his study of Yorkshire's well-heeled suburbia is not the applied cynicism of *The Ploughman's Lunch*, but the capacity for emotional unhappiness just underneath the starched surface.

In *Wetherby*, it is unleashed by the violent death of a mysterious young man (Tim McInnerny) who arrives uninvited at a schoolteacher's dinner party and seems rather superior before blowing his brains out the following day. From there on, we examine, as if trapped in some metaphysical thriller, the reasons why he did it.

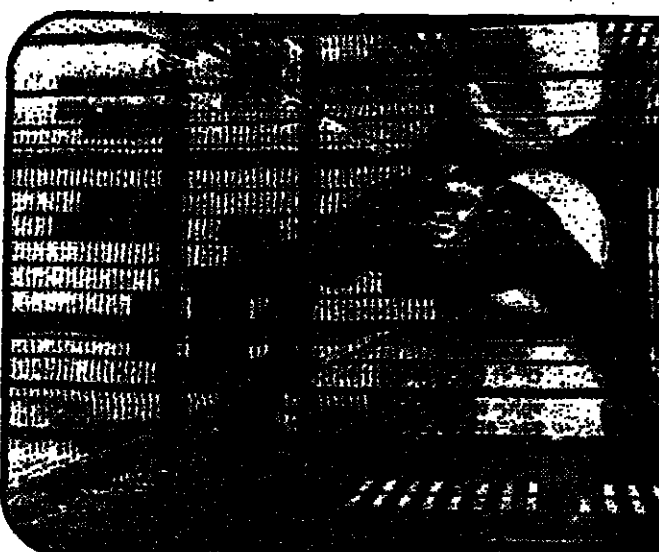
The teacher (Vanessa Redgrave) has clearly had some profound effect on him, as has the curiously uninvolved student (Suzanna Hamilton) who suddenly appears on the scene. The teacher's early life is also reconstructed, with Joely Richardson, Redgrave's daughter, playing her as a young woman, emotionally ruined by a tragic affair.

What Hare achieves, not without effort and in spite of an occasionally over-ambitious density, is a kind of political theatre that engages on an aesthetic level. None of these people, except possibly the suicide, can articulate what's happening to them. Nor, seemingly, would they wish to. The film's chief task is to do that for them, without being aggressive, schematic, and this is Hare's cunning as a director.

He is aided by impeccable performances, particularly from Redgrave and Richardson, but also from most of the cast, including such experienced performers as Judi Dench and Ian Holm.

If you're frightened of loneliness, never get married, says Holm's cynical boozier at one point. What Hare suggests is that it is a signal disadvantage to be English, too. That he does so as much through his images as through his writing makes *Wetherby* into the imaginative, ambitious and intriguing

Bob Balaban in 2010, below, and Tim McInnerny in *Wetherby*, right



Derek Malcolm reviews *Wetherby*, 2010 and other new releases

The mourning after the night before

prospect it is. The Berlin Golden Bear was well deserved.

Peter Hyams's 2010 (Empire, PG) opened the same festival with what most people thought was a dull thud. As a sequel to Kubrick's 2001 it hardly passes muster, going for explanations where Kubrick asked for imagination but still not answering the questions 2001 raised. The heart sinks as, once again, the fat golden chords of Also Sprach Zarathustra blast out at us. Too much has intervened since then for the required effect.

Among the interventions have been Hyams's own *Outland* and *Capricorn One*, odes to the human performance in which human beings are larger than the mysteries of space. And it is these themes, rather than those of Kubrick or Arthur C. Clarke, which suffuse the

new film. What we learn by the end is that, if we want to save earth, the Russians and the Americans will have to behave themselves. Such a secret hardly seems worth letting so heavily out of the bag.

What the film signals fails to do is to lead much excitement to its story, which starts with three Americans somewhat grudgingly included in its crew, sets out to recover information stored in the Discovery, winging round Jupiter since astronaut Bowman disappeared nine years previously. East-West conflict is flaring up in Central America and the mission begins to assume a vital importance for the future of Earth.

Bows to Kubrick's classic are beautiful. Bowman's final word ("My God, it's full of stars") are endlessly repeated to remind us of what we are about. But at no time does what is a highly proficient film, with state of the art special effects, burst into proper life. No matter how hard Roy Scheider, John Lithgow, Helen Mirren and Keir Dullea try, we are seldom involved on a human level. Somehow the whole thing appears on the edge of a triviality throughout, though blown out with portentousness, like *Star Trek* minus the campy fun.

In *Ladies on the Rocks* (Screen on the Green, 18) two cabaret artists travel through Denmark confronting honest buyers and their wives with a real world full of those whom they have to persuade through laughter that what they mean is utterly serious. And the film has a very sharp eye not only on them but on the smug world through which they move. In particular, their two men are very



well drawn, stereotypes perhaps but instantly believable.

Feminism rears its head comparatively gently too in Edna Politi's *Amor Basso* or *The Daughters of Utopia* (Everyman, Hampstead, U). This is a documentary enquiry into the lives of six women who went to Palestine in the Twenties, from Russia and Poland, to "build the country by building themselves."

Sixty years later, the struggle to reconcile socialism, feminism and feminism has clearly not been won. But what comes through strongly is the audaciousness of the attempt and the essential nobility of the concept. These women, struggling for Utopia, have clearly not wasted their lives. The world has just betrayed them, as was perhaps inevitable.

Betrayal, in its most cheerful

fully paranoid form, is also the theme of William Richert's *Winter Kills* (Odeon, 18), a shelved American political black comedy based on Richard Condon's novel of the same name.

The film was shelved not for censorship reasons but largely because of the financial cock-ups of its producers. It now deserves this enterprising airing, since its view of the Kennedy slayings provides an intriguing parallel with Altman's view of atavistic in *Secret Honor*. That view is that those who stalk the corridors of power are mostly powerless cyphers for usually evil (and omnipotent) special interests.

Here we have Jeff Bridges as a murdered President's traumatised younger brother discovering clues about his death that remorselessly begin to link it to the

manoeuvrings of his immensely rich tycoon father (John Huston).

The tone is deeply ironic, not to say pessimistic, with Richert striving, as the black farce progresses, to persuade us that nothing is too ridiculous not to have a basis of some truth in it. The film is all over the place but smartly made and occasionally very funny indeed. And, like the much more claustrophobic *Secret Honor*, it also gives you the shivers.

So, alas, does the Anglo-Russian *Favela - A Woman For All Time* (Odeon, Marble Arch, U) which is incompetent enough to be a good story with a mixture of vulgar pictorialism and slushy sentimentality that frequently renders it laughable.

Enil Lotmanov's traversing of Favela's odd life commits almost every faux pas in the book, including the casting of Bruce Forsyth as Alfred Batt, her London impresario, for a cameo role of stunning ineptitude. While James Fox as her aristocratic lover, Victor d'Andre, who might otherwise have managed a passable performance among the ruins, is dubbed into complete impotence.

Galina Beliaeva, a dancer of some virtuosity, is the lady in question who sometimes transcends Lotmanov's stilted set-pieces. And there are others who try their best. But the situation is impossible. The more grandiose lengths the film aspires to, the more it looks ridiculous.

On a happier note, The Bitty Briton shows Anne Jamali's *Majidhar* (PG) from tomorrow. This encouraging first feature, filmed in nine days with a tiny budget gathered from various sources, including Channel Four and the GLC, about a Pakistani immigrant, deserted by her husband after an arranged marriage, trying to survive independently in London.

The film, which might just have been a worthy bore, is nothing of the sort, having a very sympathetic performance from Rita Wolf in the lead and stating with admirable clarity the racism she faces from the whites and the conservatism she struggles against among her own kind.

No doubt 20/20 Vision's banned film on M15 and the Special Branch will eventually be shown on television. Meanwhile, the Screen at the Electric, Portobello Road, shows it from tomorrow, together with the Australian *Guard*, a fictional story illustrating the current debate about biotechnology and its threat to women. The run is for a week only.

BRIEFING

Best films

Country (Odeon, Haymarket): Richard Pearce directs Sam Shepard, Jessica Lange in exactly the best of current crowd of American - homeless movies.

Dance With A Stranger (Screen on the Hill, Planak): The story of Ruth Mills, the last woman hanged in Britain. Miranda Richardson excellent in lead; Robert Everett as worthless fifth love.

Helm (Lumiere): Edgar Reitz's unmissable 16-hour epic on the villagers of Schabbach and their progress through 60 years of German history.

Brazil (Odeon, Leicester Square): Kafka meets Walter Mitty in Terry Gilliam's over-long but beautifully mounted parable of a possible totalitarian future.

Blood Simple (release): Joel Coen's stylish macabre thriller, set in Texas, where the blond bulls and spills over.

A Private Function (Chelsea, Bloomsbury): Malcolm Mowbray's Alan Bennett - written

Best on TV

Man Hunt (today, Ch. 2 40): 1941 Fritz Lang thriller, the first of his anti-Nazi trilogy. Starring Walter Pidgeon as the Brit captured by German agents, with Joan Bennett, George Sanders.

What's Next? (Monday, Ch. 11 15): 1966 Scorsese debut, a kind of dry run for Mean Streets, with Harvey Keitel as Italian American wrestling with Catholic conscience on the streets of Little Italy, NY.

Cadillac Jack (Monday, BBC-2, 8.50): Doris Day, Howard Keel in *Deadwood City*. Made by David Butler in 1953 with some splendid musical numbers and much vivacity.

Young and Innocent (3.30, Saturday, Ch. 4): Minor 1937 Hitchcock chase thriller with Derrick De Marney trying to prove he's innocent of murder.

Janis (Saturday, Ch. 11 0): Janis Joplin compilation film, made in 1975 when it was still fashionable to regard her



comedy of post war English manners, with fine cast including large pig.

as rock martyr. Music better than interviews.

Charalata (Sunday, Ch. 2 25): 1984 Satyajit Ray masterpiece, perhaps his greatest film, about bored wife and her affair with would-be writer. Don't miss.

Major Dundee (Saturday, BBC-2, 8.05): 1984 Peckinpah Western, one of his best films, with Charlton Heston as pathological Indian hunter.

San Demetrio London (Sunday, BBC-2, 4.25): Charles Frend's 1943 war epic, about crippled oil tanker saved by intrepid crew. Based on true story, and one of the first major Ealing Studio productions.

Letter From An Unknown Woman (Monday, BBC-2, 3.30): 1948 Max Ophüls masterpiece, with Joan Fontaine,

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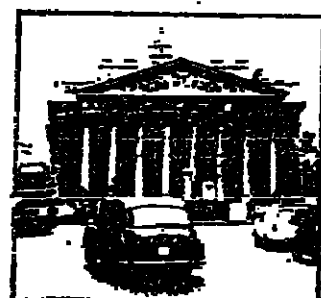
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FROM THURSDAY MARCH 14th

Lumiere Cinema

At this rate of profit the Sun will never set on the News International empire



NOTEBOOK

Edited by
Hamish McRae

LET'S start today with some praise of the Sun. Yesterday's half-year results from the News International group, viewed from a distance, look like those of any large multinational com-

munications corporation. The group is based in three continents and its interest range from airlines, through TV to newspapers. It is big, and it is successful.

Yet for all that, the group is in financial terms almost a one-product company. One product is the money machine which pulls the whole group along. Among the various interests around the world there are profitable and unprofitable businesses, and good and bad products (the two not necessarily being the same at all).

But in general the profitable is balanced by the unprofitable so that with one exception the group as a whole makes only a tiny profit on its vast turnover. That exception is the Sun. With a bit of help from its sister paper, the News of the World, it produces year in, year out, more than half the profits of the entire enterprise.

You cannot get at the fig-

ures at all precisely and you are not meant to, but even in the last six months this seems to be broadly true. This was a bad period, for the Sun was off the streets for a while with a dispute, and all sterling earnings are depressed in dollar terms for obvious reasons.

But if you take UK earnings at £15 million, and say that since the Times newspapers are still losing money (because the profits on the Sunday are more than lost on the daily) the Sun and NoW must have made something like £20 million. But the group as a whole only made £58 million, or around £38 million.

What should one conclude from this? A number of things. One is that a fairly basic product, produced by established technology in a slow-growing economy can under certain circumstances be amazingly profitable. As Acorn reminded us yesterday, a hit can mean high pain.

Next, you do not need a monopoly to achieve very high returns on turnover. The Sun has its competitors, the Mirror and increasingly effectively, the Star. Neither have managed to make a dent on the Sun's results.

Third, product-led profitability is extremely durable. Rupert Murdoch got the Sun right, and the lead it established has proved unassailable.

Figuring it

MIDLAND has definitely done better than expected, particularly in Britain, and the management deserves credit for that. Nevertheless, the City was a bit dubious when it took a closer look, and you can see why. It is perfectly possible to rejig the figures to show a pre-tax loss without doing any great

injustice to the accountancy profession.

First, the bank took the proceeds from the sale of Crocker's headquarters in California as an operating profit, on the argument that it was a deliberate move to offset bad debts which also arose from the year's operations. Fair enough, and the auditors had no quarrel with that.

But under the evolving standards of the accountancy profession there is a persistent movement towards counting such items as exceptional profits — in other words they should not boost the pre-tax figures. That would knock £134 million off.

Second, Midland charged £11 million of reorganisation costs as an exceptional item which does not affect the pre-tax profit. Some firms might have made a different decision. Putting the £11 million back into the operating profit and loss, while removing the proceeds of the head-

quarters sale, would have produced a loss.

These are games analysts can play to their hearts' content. Indeed, if Midland had declared a pre-tax loss, the bottom line figure would have remained exactly the same, with a £13 million net loss after everything has been counted. Arguably, the most important figure of all for the bank is therefore the capital backing for its loans, which after the damage from Crocker has miraculously proved nearly as high as at NatWest.

This is very reassuring, except for one other problem. Midland, through Crocker, is a heavy lender to Latin America. But it made a smaller provision against bad debts on its international lending than NatWest. Yet Midland is considerably more exposed to such problems. The market conclusion was that NatWest could afford to take a tough line but Midland, with its US losses could not.

Canny move

THE SALE of Dunlop's US tyre business for \$120 million is being interpreted as another canny move by Sir Michael Edwards, and so it should be. BTR will have to pay a great deal more now to get its hands on Dunlop.

The US tyre business earned profits of \$11 million last year — an enormous sum by Dunlop's impecunious standards. But its sale will in effect reduce Dunlop's debt burden by \$180 million and make the company a much more manageable proposition wherever it ends up.

The fact is that Dunlop has been trying to find a decent buyer for the business for the last 18 months. Mr Randall Clark, the US chief executive offering the management buyout, was installed in his present post by Sir Michael just a few

months ago. This surely is no coincidence, but he was given the post well before BTR appeared on the scene.

The truth appears to be that, taking over battles and details notwithstanding, Dunlop is still in dire need of reducing its huge debt burden, and selling the US business has always been the only effective way of doing it.

Dunlop's revised reconstruction document which still awaits the House of Commons, is expected to have even more red ink in it than can be deduced from the scant details about Dunlop's finances that have been released.

BTR may take the view, when it sees the scope of the provisions, that it can do without Dunlop after all. But the disposal of the US tyre business, which does not really fit into BTR's central strategy, could make what is left of Dunlop (rubber, engineering and consumer goods) even more tempting.

MPs criticise 'ambiguity' in exchange rate policy

Pound fall blamed on Lawson

By Christopher Huhne,
Economics Editor

The all-party Treasury Committee of the House of Commons yesterday criticised the government for "exacerbating" the run on the pound due to the "ambiguities" and lack of clear commitment in its exchange rate policy.

In a special report sparked by the slide of the pound in January and the subsequent 41 per cent rise in interest rates, the influential committee of MPs says it is "increasingly implausible" for the Chancellor to deny that he has a sterling target, and called on him to announce that he does.

The committee stops short of advocating full British participation in the European monetary system of pegged EEC ex-

change rates, but it cites approvingly the recent judgment of the Governor of the Bank of England that the EEC club would have made it easier to check the recent slide in the pound.

This is in contrast with the recent statements of the Chancellor, who has denied any such advantage in the EMS, though a high-level review recently agreed that the government should maintain its line on the system of saying that it is kept under active consideration.

The committee, which has a majority of Conservative members, says the oil price falls helped unsettle the foreign exchange markets "but the absence of a clearer government commitment about its intentions for the exchange rate exacerbated the situation."

The report also provides ammunition for the opposition parties — which have argued that the government bungled the sterling crisis — by blaming the inaccuracies in press reports of government policy on the "ambiguities implicit in the government's public stance."

The Chancellor's and Prime Minister's remarks that sterling is now undervalued are seen as a change in policy. The stated position that there is no target was "difficult to reconcile with actual events and official action" such as the interest rate rises.

Similarly, the committee argues, that it is impossible to see sterling as an indicator of monetary conditions at home, as the Treasury says it does, unless it has some idea of

where the pound ought to be, and says that it is "increasingly implausible" to deny the existence of a target.

The pound gained 1.38 cent against the dollar to \$1.0780 and stayed level against the German mark after falling below \$1.05 at one stage during a confused day in which the markets were extremely nervous.

The Federal Reserve chairman, Mr Paul Volcker, last night again proved himself a one-man assault team against the US dollar when he warned Congress that its value could change rapidly. No sooner had his words reached the New York financial markets than the American currency went into a nosedive which was assisted in later trading by some heavy intervention by the Bank of Canada.

Myth of BNOC pricing blown

By James Elickman

THE implausible but official fiction that the Government never intervenes to command Britain's North Sea oil price in times of crisis was finally fractured yesterday by a Commons Select Committee.

The Energy Minister, Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, admitted before the Select Committee on Energy that the British National Oil Corporation is really only the handmaiden of the Cabinet. Pre-



Alick Buchanan-Smith

vious claims that BNOC only spoke and acted by ministerial ventriloquism have always been denied.

But under a barrage of questions from Mr Ted Leadbitter, the Labour MP, Mr Buchanan-Smith finally conceded that North Sea oil price "decisions are taken by the government in consultation with BNOC."

The myth that BNOC ultimately decides Britain's oil price has been convenient for the Government because it has wished to create the impression that it stands aloof both from free market forces and from the price and production pacts of the Opec cartel.

The all-party select committee only extracted the admission from Mr Buchanan-Smith at its second attempt. At a previous hearing before the Energy Minister's candour had been less than convincing, so the committee invited him back for another grilling yesterday.

When Department of Energy officials realised the extent of the gap — one described it as "a radical departure from the Government's previous line" — they went into an immediate huddle and issued a stiff retraction.

"What he said is the reverse of what he meant to say," said a Department of Energy spokesman. In fairness to the Minister he had been up all night subjected to a three line whip on the fluoridation debate.

But Mr Leadbitter said afterwards: "I do not accept that Mr Buchanan-Smith was not quite himself. He was very much alert and his department has been regrettably foolish in seeking to make an excuse. The officials are not very pleased because under cross examination we got near the truth."

Tiredness did not prevent Mr Buchanan-Smith, from defending Britain's policy of short-term intervention to steady the world oil price

Midland's £135m profit takes City by surprise

By Peter Rodgers,
City Editor

The Midland Bank yesterday wrongfooted the City with a much bigger profit than the stock market expected, at £135 million before tax.

This was \$90 million down on a year before because of huge and well publicised losses of \$222 million at the Crocker subsidiary in San Francisco, which had lent to vineyards, energy and property companies which got into trouble.

But there was a healthier than expected performance from UK banking and some other bits of the business, which offset some of the losses. Most brokers had forecast pre-tax profits of under £100 million.

Midland also covered its maintained dividend 1.1 times with after-tax profits of \$62 million, although this was a little less because the bank still had to dip into its reserves to cover a net loss of \$13 million at the end of the day. This was because of extraordinary items totalling £17 million deducted below the line.

The effect of this and other small profits in the announced such as a 60 per cent tax rise to £160 million, was to wipe out initial sharp gains in the share price, which eventu-



Sir Donald Barron

ally closed 12p down at 347p, dragging other banks with it. But there was an antidote in the form of healthier figures for the all-important capital backing, which measures the safety of the bank. Midland said in January that it had about 54 of capital to back each £100 of lending, which was thought so low that it would lead to immediate strong pressure from the Bank of England to raise new capital.

In fact, the figure is 10 per cent better, at 14.40 for each £100, not far short of the much more profitable NatWest. The Midland chairman, Sir Donald Barron, said the bank planned to issue a new form of perpetual floating rate note which would count in the same way as new equity capital. An issue of \$200 to \$300 million is expected in mid-year, after shareholder approval. The issue would be under new Bank of England guidelines which have caused a row in the City, because some other banks say they are unworkable.

Excluding Crocker, the rest of Midland did splendidly with a 48 per cent rise in profits to \$357 million, because of better margins and lower interest costs.

Sir Donald said that Crocker had taken a conservative view and had made provisions against all loan losses, which could reasonably be foreseen at the end of 1981. But he added: "We cannot of course give a categorical guarantee that there will be no further exceptional charge-offs."

Apart from Crocker, bad debts were under control. Profits in the merchant bank subsidiary, Samuel Montagu, were down, Mr Taylor said, because of slack markets and higher costs.

Dunlop fights bid with US offshoot sale

By Margaretta Pagano,
City Correspondent

The takeover battle between BTR and Dunlop intensified yesterday when Dunlop confirmed that it was poised to sell-off its US tyre business, which will raise about £100 million to help slash the group's huge borrowings.

The news, which will add muscle to Dunlop's defences, came as BTR announced excellent results for 1982, and a cross-forfeiture issue for shareholders. Priorit scored to record levels in all the group's activities to notch up £284 million pre-tax in 1982, compared with £171 million last time.

BTR's shares jumped 28p to 672p, but closed down at 664p. Sir Owen Green, the chairman of BTR, admitted that it was Dunlop's day, for a change. "We have no comment to make on their latest move other than to say that we must put it into the context of the group's financial background. We are still waiting to see those details."

But it is unlikely that BTR will want Dunlop's US business.

Dunlop said that talks about the US business were at an advanced stage with the management and a group of local investors. A spokesman said: "The disposal is a further im-

portant step in the new management team's strategy of concentrating on the group's core businesses and reducing even further involvement in the tyre business. It will improve the group's earnings and have a very positive impact on reducing group borrowing levels."

Dunlop's shares closed up 51p at 511p. BTR's £23 million takeover bid for Dunlop reaches its closing date today. It will have to be approved by 9.30 am tomorrow if it intends to extend the offer.

Morgan Grenfell, BTR's advisers said they were not able to say whether an increased offer was on the cards. "We are still

waiting for more trading information before we go any further," said a spokesman.

Dunlop said it was near the final stages of preparing a new financial reconstruction package and would be sending full details to shareholders as soon as it had been completed. Dunlop has told the City takeover panel that it should be able to release financial details by next Monday. BTR will be able to extend its offer if Dunlop does not comply.

BTR is paying a final dividend of 7.25p, making a total of 13p compared with 8.5p. Sales reached £3.4 billion compared with £1.9 billion.

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TO BE CONTINUED TOMORROW...

News International depressed

By our
Financial Staff

Industrial problems and higher interest charges depressed half-year profits at Mr Rupert Murdoch's News International group, but Times Newspapers is still expected to break even this year.

Pre-tax profit slumped to £15.4 million in the six months to December, compared with £18.5 million last time. Mr Arthur Britten, a News International director, said yesterday the higher interest charges were the main cause of the profit fall. The journal-

ists' dispute at the Sun newspaper, the day of action, and the docks strike were also to blame.

He added that despite the setback full year profit should be higher. Higher advertising revenue and circulation, and the recent cover price rise at the Times should help the TLN group pull out of the red, although the Times is still losing money.

"The circulation of the News of the World is very high since it went tabloid and the Sun is doing very well. When the February figures are released we expect them to show we have widened the gap with the Daily Mirror," Mr Britten said.

News Corporation, Mr Murdoch's Australian group, disclosed net profit up at A\$58.3 million, against A\$52 million, on a turnover of A\$1 billion. The group's success foray into share in Ansett Transport Industries, leaving an extraordinary profit of A\$19 million.

BL regains some of lost UK market

By Michael Smith

BL, the State-owned car manufacturer, has regained some of the UK market lost during the final months of 1982.

BL's Austin Rover subsidiary topped the new car sales league in February and helped the firm increase its share of the British market to 18.9 per cent in the first two months of 1983 from the depressed 17.8 per cent in 1982.

Austin Rover's recovery in February saw the Metro become the UK's best-selling car and the Montego and Maestro in the top 10. BL's sales hit a

lowest-ever ebb in December when the firm took only 11.8 per cent of the UK market.

So far this year Austin Rover is the only major car manufacturer to raise its sales in a market which overall has fallen 3 per cent.

Figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show that new car sales in February fell to 158,000 with Ford the market leader at 28 per cent of all sales. General Motors took almost 20 per cent.

However, Ford's market share in the first two months of the year has declined

New credit card plan

By Margaretta Pagano

Littlewoods Organisation, the privately-owned pools-to-mail order and stores group, is set to launch a national credit card which can be used in its chain of 100 shops and in other retail outlets.

The move fits in with Littlewoods' aggressive attempts to keep up with the

changes taking place in the retail world. Last week it announced a "Shop TV" to buy electrical goods.

Burton Group is also believed to be close to launching a new financial services group with a range of products from loans to insurance. It already runs a personal account credit

Sharp spender wanted

By Michael Smith,
Industrial Editor

Mr Walter Goldsmith, the former head of the Institute of Directors and a slavish supporter of Mrs Thatcher, has been chosen by the Cabinet Office to find a business executive will bring a dash of commercial flair to £7.6 billion a year of spending by government departments.

The lucky person will earn £65,000 a year and report directly to Mrs Thatcher, Lord Gowrie, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Mr Goldsmith's executive headhunting firm, Korn/Ferry International, was selected by

the Cabinet Office from a shortlist of four and is likely to receive at least £15,000 for more commercial approach into government purchasing policies.

The successful candidate will be head of the Central Unit on Purchasing, with the specific task of improving purchasing procedures throughout all government departments, except Ministry of Defence armaments and National Health Service supplies.

The post arises from the recent Cabinet Office report which detailed potential savings of £400 million a year from departmental spending totalling £7.6 billion.

The Central Unit on Purchasing is likely to be made up of five or six people

recruited from both the Civil Service and industry, with the firm commitment to inject a more commercial approach into government purchasing policies.

Mr Goldsmith said: "The unit's aim will be to achieve better value for money and reductions in overall expenditure. The head of the unit will be responsible for planning and implementing an action programme to achieve a reduction in government purchasing costs."

He said the successful candidate would be a skilled communicator, with the ability to persuade and the tenacity to establish and maintain the momentum of change.

NEWS IN BRIEF

GEC has bought more of its own shares through the stock market. The company confirmed it had bought nine million shares at 197p, and was back in the market adding to its purchases again yesterday through brokers Springmount Kemp-Gee.

SHAREHOLDERS in Ryan International, the coal recovery group whose shares were suspended in January at 13p, are being offered a £5 million rescue package to prevent the company from going into receivership. Saratoga Resources, British Alcan Aluminium and the Welsh Development Agency are subscribing for new shares and shareholders are being asked to support a £750,000 rights issue. The company lost £2.3 million in 1982.

THE slowdown in the rate of housebuilding in the UK continued in January with only 11,200 new starts, compared with 13,900 in January, 1982. The number of houses completed also fell by 1,000 to 14,200.

HOUSE prices rose by an average of 9 per cent in the UK last year, according to the Woolwich Building Society. In London and the South East prices rose by between 12 to 14 per cent.

THORN EMI Electronics has won a £18 million contract to supply the British army with thermal image repair facilities. It is the third major contract to be awarded to Thorn by the MoD in recent months.

A DRAFT plan for the City of London could stifle development, according to a report from Savills, the estate agents. More than half of the tenants questioned by Savills said that they "might well" consider moving out of the City if restrictive planning policies in the plan were implemented.



ECONOMICS
Christopher Huhne

WAS IT a good investment, as the Chancellor once indirectly described his Government's resistance of the miners' strike? His very assertion was revealing because it implied that something positive would arise from the bitter collapse of the NUM. In reality, the Government's gain is merely to have averted something even more negative than the demonstrable costs of the strike and its legacy of bitterness and humiliation in the mining communities.

Much has been written of the costs of the dispute in terms of so much for the Central Electricity Generating Board which had to burn oil rather than coal, so much for British Rail which lost its coal freight, and so forth. These calculations of the impact on public sector finances are, of course, of acute interest to the Chancellor, because of his implied room for tax cuts within his borrowing target, and to the brokers' analysts who must advise on whether to buy or sell Government bonds.

But the more important economic figure is surely the broad, loss to national income whomever incurred it. On the Central Statistical Office's estimates, the direct and indirect loss to national income (Gross Domestic Product) was between 1 per cent and 1½ per cent last year, or around £3 billion. At roughly the same rate of loss in the first quarter of this year, we are probably talking about a total loss of around £4 billion (much, of course, borne by the striking miners themselves).

The coaldust settles, without a policy for change

Whether this is regarded as a "good investment" depends crucially on what assumptions are made about what would have happened if the miners had not eventually been confronted and what now happens to recoup the losses. The situation in the mining industry up to the beginning of last year was simply unsustainable for any government of whatever political stripe.

However much the National Coal Board's basis of accounting can be legitimately criticised (and it can), possible changes to the accounting rules would mainly affect the perceived level of subsidy or loss per pit. But what was unsustainable was the very rapid growth of that subsidy.

In real terms (allowing for general inflation) the grant per employee on the Government's figures rose by 204 per cent between 1978-9 and 1982-3. The real borrowing limit grew by 35.5 per cent in real terms.

It is always, of course, arguable that it pays the Government in the short term to ensure that no one ever loses a job, because the Treasury loses tax revenue and has to pay out social security benefits. These feedback effects are, indeed, an important additional argument for stimulating the overall growth of the economy.

But if specific jobs are guaranteed—rather than a climate in which new jobs can replace old ones—we would indeed condemn ourselves to a museum society in which the Basingstoke soldier who kept the West Country stage coaches going would never have become the Swindon fireman, let alone the Heathrow air traffic controller.

Just how dangerous such a course might be can be simply seen by applying the rule to everyone: if it is seriously argued that anyone who will cost the Government more in the short term by being unemployed should be subsidised, what would stop the Guardian's journalists earning well above the

national average, putting in a hefty pay claim, bankrupting the paper, and seeing the editor go cap in hand to persuade the Treasury that it would really be in its interests to bail the paper out?

Just who in those circumstances would ultimately be paying the taxes to maintain our education system and our social services?

Would it be any more acceptable for the Treasury to subsidise relatively rich Guardian journalists than relatively rich coal-miners, whose pay puts them at number two in the industrial league at a quarter above the average (and way above the national average, too)?

Or should government

It is quite possible that the costs of the confrontation when it came, and it probably would have with a miners' leader so clearly contemptuous of the wishes of his own unbalanced membership, would have been less had the Government in turn forewarned the provocation of Mr MacGregor's appointment, and made altogether clearer the basis of decisions to press ahead with closures.

If the wounds in the industry are to heal, it is essential now that the reasoning behind any pit closures should be public, and should take account of the boon to the competitive position of coal due to the fall of the pound. At the margin,

Debt charges and overhead costs of the main NCB would no longer be borne by the pit, and the miners would have the additional flexibility of being able to decide for themselves whether to move jobs or continue working at the old pit possibly at a lower pay rate they would decide themselves (but buoyed by their redundancy money).

In many cases, such a breathing space might also give time for the pit—or NCB enterprises—to develop alternative production before the pit was finally exhausted. In hard hit regions, this should inevitably merit specific subsidy.

The lack of imagination which the Government has so far displayed in this battle of the class war tyrannosauruses is sadly symptomatic of its whole attitude towards change and the therapeutic effects of unalloyed market forces. Although catharsis can lead to improvements in working practices—as was shown by the spurt of productivity after the 1979-81 downturn—it cannot by definition be a long term approach to the problem of increasing our national income.

It is difficult to increase national income by periodically slashing it. Yet there has been no attempt—let alone success—on the part of the Government to re-establish an industrial consensus which would allow a continuous process of productivity and welfare improvements.

Arguably, the very experience of catharsis in the long run increases resistance to change, precisely as it may have done during the original industrialisation of this country. The roots of Luddism can be traced to the lack of any form of social safety net, unlike the net put in place after the unification of Germany, at a time of wounding and wholesale change from a predominantly agrarian society.

If Britain is to repair the long term relative economic

decline it has suffered for a century those who have to undergo industrial change must not just be compensated but persuaded by example that it is the route—in a very personal sense—to higher living standards. Part of the answer is incentives, part is education; and part is a wholesale growth and low unemployment.

Its simplistic model of change, though, is not the only flaw of Thatcherism, for it has done no more than its predecessor doctrines to make genuine improvements in the supply capacity of the British economy. The technological universities have been cut; the number of apprentices is down; investment in the area with the greatest potential for productivity gains—manufacturing has fallen.

This message came out loud and clear from the latest study by the National Institute's team under Professor Sig Frels which has specialised in identifying these crucial long-run supply-side failures. The British workforce is still poorly educated and appallingly trained, not to exam standards but merely to ones deemed to be reached after a sufficient amount of time-serving. The study even found British managers, in stark contrast to their German counterparts, who said that they were not interested in higher productivity since the quicker a job was done the sooner it was completed and the more setting of machinery had to be done.

The praise of individualism and the joys of laissez-faire are not going to rectify

these problems, any more than they did in the 1970s and 1980s when Britain's poor relative performance first became apparent. There was no nanny state in those days, and fiscal rectitude could no more sturdily have been applied than by Mr William Ewart Gladstone. You cannot make managers any less bone-headed by making them more powerful, or Luddite workers any more proficient in new technologies by cowering them with unemployment and slump. Economically and politically, Mrs Thatcher now needs to show that there is light at the end of her tunnel, and that she knows how to get there. Shoring up the brickwork with a few pit props may be necessary exercise, but it is far from a sufficient one.

Period	Britain	Germany	France
1870-1880	+20.2	+23.2	—
1880-1890	+11.7	+38.6	—
1890-1900	+11.6	+31.4	—
1900-1910	+14.6	+20.1	+20
1913-1925	—	-10.6	+17.1
1925-1935	+25.2	+73.4	—
1935-1950	+29.8	+112.9	+87.2
1950-1970	+33.9	+107.7	+76.3
1970-1980	+20.6	+31.7	+49.3

Source: for 1870-1970, see European Historical Statistics, ed B. R. Mitchell; 1970-1980 derived from OECD Economic Outlook, December 1984. Comparisons of periods are hampered by data unavailability; year to year growth rates do not allow for differing points in the economic cycle.

make genuine choices about public spending based on moral and egalitarian principles which would dictate that supplementary benefit claimants or kidney patients are more worthy recipients of the taxpayers' marginal pound?

The case for Scargillism has only ever been coherent either in strictly revolutionary terms or in blinkered trade unionist ones where it is industrial muscle that counts, and the devil take the hindmost. Sadly, though, it has borne an uncanny similarity to the overseas position of the National Coal Board and the Government, which have all too often appeared to be equally doughty fighters of the class war.

pits which the board might have wanted to close last February may well look decidedly more attractive now.

Similarly, as William Kingdon argued in Economic Agenda yesterday, there is ample room for some constructive thinking beyond the simple choice of continue or close. If mining communities believe they could make a go of a pit which the NCB wants to close, they should be positively encouraged to try without prejudice to the board's guarantee that if they subsequently fail they will be re-employed elsewhere.

The NCB would need to provide an umbrella marketing organisation, rather like the Milk Marketing Board.

General Accident

RESULTS FOR 1984

The audited accounts for the year to 31st December 1984 will be published on 15th April 1985, but preliminary and unaudited figures for 1984, with actual figures for 1983, are as follows:—

	1984 £m	1983 £m
Premium Income		
General Business	1,689.0	1,395.0
Long Term Business	189.9	132.0
	1,878.9	1,527.0
Profit and Loss Account		
Investment Income (see note)	266.2	212.5
Underwriting Results—General Business	(268.3)	(150.2)
Shareholders' Long Term Profits	7.7	4.9
	5.6	67.2
Less Interest on Loans	1.7	1.6
Profit before Taxation	3.9	65.6
Taxation—U.K. and Overseas	(8.1)	1.9
Profit after Taxation	12.0	63.7
Minority Interests and Preference Dividends	2.2	1.5
Profit for the year available to Ordinary Shareholders	9.8	62.2
Earnings per Share	5.9p	37.0p
Dividend per Share	20.0p	19.0p
Net Assets per Share	825p	677p

Note—Investment income excludes £10.7m (1983 £5.8m) representing amortisation of U.S. deep discount bonds which under the U.S.A. accounting conventions would be credited to earnings.

	1984			1983		
	Premium Income	Underwriting Result	Principal exchange rate used	Premium Income	Underwriting Result	Principal exchange rate used
U.K.	505.0	(72.4)	—	488.2	(57.5)	—
U.S.A.	752.6	(138.1)	\$1.16	550.8	(56.3)	\$1.45
EEC other than UK	92.1	(16.3)	—	78.9	(12.3)	—
Canada*	157.9	(33.8)	\$1.53	123.4	(10.6)	\$1.81
Australia*	43.2	(1.5)	\$1.40	32.8	(4.6)	\$1.61
Others, including reinsurance	87.8	(5.4)	—	83.6	(4.5)	—
Marine and Aviation	50.4	(2.8)	—	37.3	(4.4)	—
	1,689.0	(268.3)		1,395.0	(150.2)	

* before internal reinsurance

Life Department			
There was an increased contribution to profit and loss account from our long term funds, which also reported UK new business production as follows:			
	1984 £m	1983 £m	
New Life and Annuity Premiums			
Annual	28.1	32.9	
Single	45.0	28.6	

Final dividend for the year ended 31st December 1984

The Directors have decided to recommend to the Shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 8th May 1985, the payment of a final dividend on the Ordinary Shares of 12.0p per share making a total distribution for the year of 20.0p per share (1983—19.0p per share).

The dividend will be payable on or after 1st July 1985, to Shareholders on the register on 1st June 1985.

Net Assets

The net asset value of the group increased during the year by £253m to £1,392m, reflecting the strength of the US dollar and the growth in equity share values in the UK.

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Claim gloom at General Accident

By Mary Brasler

A poor fourth quarter at a time when the insurance industry is talking of recovery, has hit profits of General Accident. The company, the second major composite to report 1984 figures, made just £3.9 million against £5.6 million in 1983, after losing £500,000 in the final three months of the year.

The City, which thought that GA might manage at least £6 million, contained its shock, pacified by an increased dividend up from 15p to 20p after a 12p final. But the shares later fell 5p to 335p.

GA pinned the blame for its fourth quarter showing on the major UK motor account,

which made an underwriting loss of £13.6 million in 1984 after a sharp rise in claims and some late reporting of claims from the third quarter. GA is holding back from pushing through general motor premium increases, but says it is applying selective increases on business with "unacceptable" loss ratios.

But motor appears to be just a part of a gloomy picture in the UK market. The underwriting loss has leaped from £57.5 million to £72.5 million, fuelled by weather claims and general property losses.

And GA sees little improvement in 1985. "The company can anticipate some general

improvement, particularly in North America, but is less confident that it will see any real advance in the UK before 1986," said the chief general manager, Mr. Buchanan Marshall.

Other big markets are also still in a bad shape. Canada, where, in common with other insurers, GA has had to strengthen reserves in the past 12 months to cope with increased court awards for liability claims, increased its underwriting loss from £10.6 million to £33.8 million. The worldwide underwriting loss is now over £268 million with the US contributing £136.1 million.

The disastrous US business

was, however, moving in the right direction in the last quarter of last year to show a small improvement in the operating ratio.

There is also the prospect of benefits to come in 1985 from rate increases, particularly on commercial risks where premiums have already risen by as much as 25 per cent.

GA said that the prospect of higher earnings in 1985 together with balance sheet strength — assets per share have risen and the group has £10.7 million from the amortisation of US bonds which it could credit to earnings — justified its decision to lift the dividend.



Gordon Simpson: GA's chairman

COMPANY BRIEFING

Shares fall after Lex warning

Despite its good rise in profits in 1984, Lex Service Group saw its shares drop 23p to 204p after a warning by the chairman, Trevor Chinn, that a fall in demand for electronic components was going to hit the first-half results.

Management figures indicate that component sales in the first two months of the year are steady at December's levels, and that without a "considerable improvement" the group's US operation will make a small trading loss. In Europe, the components business is heading for a "substantially worse" result for the half-year, although some industry analysts in the US are optimistic that demand will improve, by which time the group's Schweizer subsidiary will benefit from its lower cost structure.

Although the board repeats that the group will pick up with the components cycle, it is not letting the dividend level swing, but will let it reflect the group's growth over the long-term.

For 1984 the payment is up from 9.75p to 10.6p after profits climbed from £38.1 million to £46.8 million. Profits from car distribution dropped from £34.8 million to £30.9 million in the UK but turned from a loss of £1.6 million to a profit of £2.1 million in the US.

The components business peaked in the first half-year but there was no growth at all in the second half. Mr Chinn says that the volatility of the market for electronic components was especially evident in the US where demand fell, contrary to expectations, particularly in the final quarter.



THE KUWAITIS appeared to be running against the crowd yesterday when they announced the purchase of a £1.8 million parcel of shares in Barratt Developments, taking their stake in the housebuilding group to 8.47 per cent.

Barratt is due to report first-half figures in just under two weeks on budget day, amid City fears that Sir Lawrie will cut the interim dividend. Barratt shares, stuck at 74p yesterday, have five friends. Stockbrokers Buckmaster & Moore say that it is uncertain how much success Barratt will have in boosting house sales through a new marketing policy. They also point out that Barratt needs rapid results to improve its liquidity position.

Heywood unhappy

Heywood Williams, the aluminium window maker and glass merchant, was disappointed with last year's result, despite making a record profit.

Heywood's own profit forecast was put off course by the unprecedented low level of home improvement business in the second half of the year. Competitive trading conditions were caused mainly by the imposition of VAT on home improvements products and the continued cutbacks in local authority spending. But the group was still able to push pre-tax profit up to £2.3 million compared with £2.3 million on sales up by £7 million to £50.5 million. With a final dividend of 3.8p Heywood is paying an increased total divi-

dend of 6p against 5.5p last time. The shares rose 4p to 134p.

The chairman, Mr. Ralph Hinchcliffe, said trading in 1984 year started on a bad footing but he expected significant growth over the year. "Earlier profit expectations, last year were higher than the results achieved," he said. "The home improvement markets require a recovery before they can substantially improve their profitability. My views on this market are similar to most forecasters who believe that a recovery will soon be evident."

Earnings per share have been depressed by the higher tax charge and the fact that money raised in 1983 from rights issues was not used until the recent City Glass Works acquisition. Mr. Hinchcliffe said that profit from City Glass has not been included but this would have improved the group's overall profit. Heywood remains on the lookout for acquisitions.

Blagden rejig

Blagden Industries, the steel drums, plastics and chemical manufacturing group, has thrashed out a capital reconstruction and £25.75 million US acquisition.

A US group, City Investing, had a 34 per cent stake in Blagden which has now been placed at about 112p through Rothschilds, raising £5 million. Blagden is also buying from City its steel drum making businesses in Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Germany as well as an associate in Spain.

To raise the near £26 million for all this, Blagden is stumping up £9 million in cash with the rest in shares. These shares will be placed at 112p a share by Rothschilds, in what the company calls a novel tender method.

Of the 14.9 million shares being placed, nine million are reserved for allocation at the minimum tender price (with 4.5 million reserved for shareholders) in effect a fixed-price deal. The balance comes with the final 5.95 million shares which will be offered to investors who are prepared to

pay more in return for getting as many shares as they want.

Apart from all this the group's profits rose 14 per cent to £2.9 million, with a dividend up from 6.5p to 7.2p. Mr. Ronald Sparrow, the chairman, says that after a particularly good first half the group saw a fall in operating profit of £478,000 in the second half following a disappointing performance by the plastics division. The chemicals division performed "outstandingly well" and lived up to the group's "most optimistic expectations."

Although demand from the coal board was down, the industrial protective equipment division had a good year. Container results at home and overseas were satisfactory. The outlook is "reasonably encouraging."

WHEELLOCK Marden, the Hong Kong group which is currently the target of a £275 million bid by Sir Y. K. Pao, has decided that it will not put any more money into its party-owned Wheelock Maritime International subsidiary. The board of the subsidiary is talking urgently with its financial advisers and wants its separate quotation suspended.

Jourdan ahead

Thomas Jourdan has an odd mix of activities and wants to add to them. It is most famous for its ownership of the Mary Quant name and has Mr and Mrs Quant (really Mr and Mrs Plunkett Greene) on the board.

But it also sells Corby trouser presses, wooden fireplace surrounds, prams, coats and nursery gear, and has a company which makes copper canopies and hearths for electric and gas fires.

All this brought in pre-tax profits of £836,000 in 1984, against £872,000. The chairman, Archie McNair, says that all sections of the business moved ahead and that a further increase in profits is seen for the current year. Royalties from Mary Quant products showed little growth at £222,000, as the Max Factor

business, which handles the cosmetics side, changed hands in the year and sales suffered. Mr. McNair predicts that this year will be a quiet one. There is no more talk of a US flotation of the Quant holding company, and more acquisitions are being sought. At most daily it seems. But actually fixing a deal is not easy.

Galliford improves

Galliford has ended 1984 with a rise in pre-tax profits from £1.1 million to £1.3 million on turnover up from £24.9 million to £31.1 million. The interim dividend is raised from 0.7p to 1p.

The board points out that it has experienced many weeks of extreme weather conditions but believes that a good result for the year can be achieved. The precision engineering company has traded at a loss but the board is looking for an improvement here.

Property development has been a very disappointing scene where slippage in achieving completion of a number of projects has occurred. Building contracting "continued its sound performance" and "will produce a good result for the year as a whole."

Chorley engineering, which provides services to the offshore oil and gas industry in the North Sea and elsewhere, performed well, but Chorley plant hire in the UK proved disappointing.

In short...

CEMENT Roadstone raised its profits from IR£9 million to IR£20 million in 1984 and is raising £9.9 million in the UK to help fund an acquisition.

CANDOVER Investments made £267,000 pre-tax profit in 1984 against £188,000 in the previous 18 months. The dividend is up from 1.55p to 2p.

Edited by Tony May

Acorn aims at Mexican growth

ACORN, the Cambridge microcomputer company, has just announced that it has secured a £1.5 million reconstruction, made a quiet return to the share market yesterday.

Pending the reconstruction, Acorn's shares were suspended last month at 28p, compared with on peak of 193p a year ago. When dealing restarted yesterday they initially gained 4p to 32p, then fell back to close at 28p.

Later this week, the BBC Acorn computer goes on sale in Mexico. A \$9 million plant, to make the machine under licence, has just opened on the outskirts of Mexico. Plans have been



Dr Reid: more cautious

completed for sales in Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador, followed by a renewed attack on the American market, via Texas, before autumn.

In Latin America it will be called the Micro-BBC, and Mr. Harry Mazell, a partner in the Mexican firm, Datum, that has the Mexican licence rights, says it has the basic commands in Spanish. "You can load Spanish software on to any machine, but only ours has a Spanish operating system," he says.

Going north could have an added incentive attached to it. When Acorn tried to launch its BEC (English language computer) in the US, Apple devoted many millions of dollars towards killing it, said Mr. Mazell.

"I will go and sell the Micro-BBC in the US from an office we've already opened in Texas, because 20 per cent of all people in the US now speak Spanish as their first language."

Back in Cambridge, Dr. Alex Reid, Acorn's new chairman and temporary chief executive, was more cautious. He said Acorn was currently in negotiation with Mr. Mazell about US selling rights in the Spanish version of the BEC-Acorn. He did not expect Acorn to make a renewed major attack until the company had new machines to offer.

Profits news boosts prices

THE MARKETS

The stock market, after a little early hesitancy, finished the session on a firm and quite confident note. Continued good corporate profit news was largely responsible for the happy mood, underlined yesterday by further bumper profits from both Midland Bank and BTR.

Most sections were able to join in the upturn but investment demand was still rather selective. Even though the index initially lost a point because of the ailing pound, had by the end of the day perked up to show gains of 1 or 2 points.

Front-loading profits trimmed an early 5p gain by Midland which reported earnings much better than analysts' suggestions. The shares finished 12p down at 847p. The banking sector generally looked rather uncertain behind persistent talk that Barclays on Friday will make fund raising proposals. Barclays themselves relinquished 12p to 387p.

Among the 30 shares of the FT index the gauge of the market was measured by 19 plus signs as opposed to five minuses. An outstanding firm feature was provided by BTR where bumper profits and a free share dividend gave a 23p fillip to the shares at 667.

Dunlop, meanwhile, announced the sale of their US tyre interests, which will undoubtedly strengthen their position in their battle against the BTR takeover. Dunlop closed 51p better at 511p.

There were many useful rises among those shares favoured by international investors. Beechams proved to be outstanding, climbing 17p to

388p behind a stockbroker and analysts' upgrading of the group's profits estimate. Oil continued to attract good investment buying. Among the majors there was support for BP, 7p higher at 348p, in anticipation of good results today. Exploration stocks also came in for some speculative demand. Insurances presented a dull appearance.

Main changes: ITR 62p up 23p; Midland Bank 847p down 12p; Dunlop 511p up 51p; BTR 667p up 23p; General Accident 335p down 5p; BP 348p up 7p; Lex Services 204p down 23p.

Equity turnover for Tuesday hit a high of 21,870. Value, £355.543 million.

Tokyo, with a stream of active buying continuing to focus on pharmaceuticals, stocks turned back upward. Nikkei Dow Jones index 12,498.00 (12,476.28).

Hong Kong. Most stock prices rose moderately in heavy trading. Hang Seng index 1,283.28 (1,267.94).

Paris. Selective buying by foreign investors nudged stocks moderately higher. The general market indicator closed with a 0.48 per cent gain.

Frankfurt. Prices closed higher but below their day's best levels as high equity buying gave way to mild profit-taking. The Commerzbank index closed up 6.7 points at 121.18.

FT Ordinary Share Index up 8.4 at 3984.4. FTSE 100 Index up 1.2 at 1,285.4. Pound: \$1.0770; DM 1.362; Fr 11.06. Gold: \$277.40. Account: February 25 to March 8. FT All Share Index up 4.7 at 619.26. Sterling Index 70.7 (1975=100). RPI 339.8 (January) up 3 per cent on year.

COMMODITIES

Copper: Cash £1,333.50 on 1000 lbs; three months £1,350.00; six months £1,360.00. Tin: Cash £1,250.00 on 1000 lbs; three months £1,260.00; six months £1,270.00. Lead: Cash £1,250.00 on 1000 lbs; three months £1,260.00; six months £1,270.00. Zinc: Cash £1,250.00 on 1000 lbs; three months £1,260.00; six months £1,270.00. Silver: Cash \$15.50 per 1000 oz; three months \$15.60; six months \$15.70. Wheat: Cash 100 bushels \$1.25; three months \$1.26; six months \$1.27. Soybeans: Cash 100 bushels \$1.25; three months \$1.26; six months \$1.27. Corn: Cash 100 bushels \$1.25; three months \$1.26; six months \$1.27. Oil: Cash 100 barrels \$1.25; three months \$1.26; six months \$1.27.

13.25%
ASAT
14.1%

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M&G Kleinwort Benson

THE STOCK EXCHANGE

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CUP SOCCER: BRITAIN IN EUROPE AND ON THE WEMBLEY TRAIL

EUROPEAN CUP—QUARTER FINAL Patrick Barclay in Vienna — Austria Vienna 1, Liverpool 1

Nicol eases Liverpool's task

LIVERPOOL came through one of their most rigorous European tests of recent years in Vienna last night, earning a deserved draw in the first leg of their Champions' Cup quarter final when Steve Nicol headed a scrappy equaliser four minutes from time.

Nicol struck at a time when Liverpool, despite having the greater territorial share of a lively match, would probably have settled for a narrow defeat. The Austrians showed the skill and flair their leading players' pedigree suggested, with Prohaska and company doing everything they could to torture Neal by playing the speedy Steinkogler on the left, but Liverpool's defences stood firm on all but one

occasion, when Polster scored a superb goal, and the final analysis showed that Nicol was by far the busier goalkeeper.

Lacking the experience of the suspended Daiglish up front, Liverpool often looked in vain for their customary understatement.

The heroes were the hard, unspectacular grafters, notably MacDonald, who, after his credible European debut in the Super Cup match against Juventus in Turin, became arguably the man of the night as he drove his side repeatedly forward on a heavy pitch.

After a sticky start in which the ball often held up, Liverpool seemed to be settling down and the goal that put them behind was stun-

ning in more ways than one. There seemed little danger when Polster swept past Lawrence's mistaken challenge, because the tall young striker was fully 25 yards out.

But he took careful aim and though Grobbelaar saw his low shot all the way, Polster sent it just inside a post with lethal accuracy.

With the names of Whelan and MacDonald already in the referee's book it seemed that Dihanich would suffer a similar fate for cynically pulling back Walsh as the little Liverpool striker went for a through ball by MacDonald with only the goalkeeper to beat. But the deeply unimpressive Mr Dochow awarded only a free kick for the loss of Liver-

pool's best chance of the half.

Koncilja, with two courageous saves at the feet of Rush, kept Liverpool out and early in the second half the Austrians might have increased their lead when, at the end of a marvelous sweeping move by Prohaska and Nylasi, Steinkogler dragged his shot wide. Another good save by Nicol from Rush signalled the beginning of a final half hour which belonged largely to Liverpool.

Though the European champions had their difficult moments when the Austrians broke clear, Grobbelaar twice denying Steinkogler, their own attacks carried the greater conviction and in the 56th minute they scored.

Walsh was fouled to the left of the penalty area and when the free kick was curled over Koncilja made his most feeble contribution of the night. He could only parry the ball a few yards to Whelan, whose shot he then could not hold.

Wark and Rush both had a stab at great confusion and the ball was deflected on to the crossbar and back to Nicol, who headed into the unguarded net. Liverpool might even have won the match, with a minute left, Rush drove a shot into the goalkeeper's midriff.

Liverpool: Grobbelaar; Neal, Kennedy, Lawton, King, Whelan, Walsh, Wark, MacDonald, Rush, Dochow. Austria: Koncilja; Polster, Prohaska, Nylasi, Steinkogler, Dihanich. Referee: S. Dochow (Belgium).

MILK CUP

Russell Thomas Norwich 2, Ipswich 0

Bruce's final answer

AN UNSTOPPABLE header by the central defender Steve Bruce just three minutes from time dramatically settled this fierce East Anglian dispute at Carrow Road last night in favour of Norwich, who go to Wembley on March 24 as worthy opponents of Sunderland in the Milk Cup final.

Once Ipswich had fallen behind to Deehan's first half goal, they could not find a way to match Norwich's greater commitment. Norwich's 2-0 victory last night put them through 2-1 on aggregate.

There were contrasting pre-match fortunes for two England centre-backs. Norwich welcomed back Watson after injury but Ipswich's manager, Bobby Ferguson, resisted the temptation to field an extra defender and left out Osman.

With the crowd capacity reduced to 23,000 after fire damage to the main stand, Carrow Road's three sides bulged at the seams in wily anticipation of a passionate tie and the prize of Wembley.

The majority of the crowd demanded a full-blooded opening by Norwich, and a nervously kicked header from Channon which gave Deane a momentary sight of goal raised the decibels to a new pitch. But the winger's shot was blocked by the quickly-recovering Butcher.

Another Deane thrust brought a corner, but this, like most of Norwich's over-eager raids, was easily dealt with. Ipswich's more composed approach promised more, and the feeling was confirmed when Gates, after being fouled just outside the area, curled the free kick on to Butcher's head. Woods was forced to go full-length to stop the centre-back's effort creeping inside a post.

The initiative appeared to slip from Ipswich, however, after a scintillating clash of heads between Watson and D'Avray left the Ipswich striker in obvious distress. D'Avray was helped off and, a few minutes later, Sunderland, the FA Cup-scoring hero of Monday night, came on to replace him up front.

This was a signal for renewed Norwich pressure, which aimed brought its reward in the 23rd minute when Haylock crossed at the second attempt and Deehan's looping header brought a magnificent, arching save from Cooper to turn the ball over.

Deehan was emerging as Norwich's most potent attacker, and the energetic striker's next header was equally accurate, hitting the top of the cross bar and somehow bouncing out to start a tremendous scramble in the Ipswich area.

Ipswich retrieved that situation, but Deehan could not be denied when opportunity presented itself again in the 35th minute, thanks to Channon's clever close control.

This time, Deehan shot from 16 yards and saw his drive loop off an Ipswich defender past the wrong-footed Cooper for a goal which levelled the aggregate score.

All Norwich's hard work was almost undone seconds after the interval, when Gates cleverly put Sunderland through with only Woods to beat. But the substitute pulled his shot from 18 yards badly wide.

Norwich quickly resumed their aggressive control, and twice within as many minutes went desperately close as first Channon's jab was heavily saved at the post and then Bruce saw his header cleared off the line.

His nephew Peter, who has performed encouragingly in his first season on the circuit, became the third member of the family to win the South African amateur title but Mannie, despite the professional status that he holds, is very unlikely now to join his son and brother in the major tournaments.

Mannie was runner-up in the 1971 World Amateur Billiards Championship and traumatically lost the World Amateur Snooker Championship final 11-10 to Ray Edmonds after leading 7-0. Loss of interest, possibly linked to the demoralising effects of such defeats and the infrequency of opportunity, have led him to abandon billiards and snooker for bowls.

John Rodda

Screen test for Christie

BOXING

Nottingham, once a prominent centre of professional boxing where fighters such as Dave Needham and Wally Swift made their reputations, returns to the spotlight tonight with the appearance of two potential British champions, Errol Christie and Keith Wallace.

The show, at the city's Royal Concert Hall, is part of a television package organised for ITV by Frank Warren in competition with the BBC's televised tournaments promoted by Mickey Duff and Mike Barrett.

For both fighters the contests are part of a rehabilitation process — Wallace after a break from boxing, Christie after his first defeat, a first-round knockout.

Christie faces Ignacio Zavala, a Texan with eight victories in 10 fights, while Jean Castellanos comes from the same American state to face Wallace. This looks the more formidable affair of the two, for although Castellanos has lost seven fights, he has met a challenger for the world bantamweight title, Gaby Canchales.

Wallace seemed to lose his

zeal for fighting after severe weight problems but that now looked competent enough, as he returned to the ring against Felipe Morales.

Christie seems to have put his one-round defeat by Jose Sery of Belgium behind him and is now anxious to establish the credentials needed to challenge Errol Graham for the British middleweight title.

Thailand's Khamsai Gaiyap knocked out Lee Dong-Choon of South Korea in the second round of their scheduled 10-round fight at Bangkok last night to retain his World Boxing Association super flyweight title.

A short left to the stomach, which Lee later called "a lucky punch", ended the fight. It was the Thai's first victory of the title he won last November and his 28th victory in 27 professional fights.



ERROL CHRISTIE: Eyes on the British middleweight title

Selectors at risk

CRICKET

Peter May and his three England selectors face an election today to stay in office. At the Test and County Cricket Board meeting at Lord's there are two challenges to their places as the panel to choose the sides against Australia is determined. These are Fred Titmus, the former Middlesex and England all-rounder, and Roy Booth, the former Worcester wicket-keeper.

May is sure to keep his place as chairman for the

fourth successive year but Alec Bedser, who has been on the panel for 23 consecutive seasons, Alan Smith and Phil Holding, their places after last summer's 5-0 defeat by West Indies. It is rare to have more than one challenge to the reigning selectors.

The Board expect to reach an agreement with Australia on a minimum number of overs per day in the Tests. If this happens only the West Indies will be outstanding in refusing to cooperate on this issue. Details of a finalising system for slow over-rates in the three one-day tournaments are also expected today.

RESULTS

Soccer
EUROPEAN CUP
Quarter-final, First Leg
Austria Vienna (1) v Liverpool (1) 1-1
Polster

EUROPEAN COMPETITIONS
Group 1: Cup-winners' Cup: Everton (1) v Borussia Dortmund (1) 1-1
Group 2: UEFA Cup: Ipswich (1) v Tottenham (1) 0-1
Group 3: UEFA Cup: Ipswich (1) v Tottenham (1) 0-1

CRICKET
ONE-DAY MATCH
NUTANS: England (1) v India (1) 1-1
England (1) v India (1) 1-1

Boxing
WBA JUNIOR-BANTAMWEIGHT (Bangkok)
Khamsai Gaiyap (Thailand) beat Lee Dong-Choon (South Korea) 10-0
WBA SUPERFLYWEIGHT (Bangkok)
Khamsai Gaiyap (Thailand) beat Lee Dong-Choon (South Korea) 10-0

Skijumping
WORLD CUP—1st Leg (Oberstdorf)
1. J. Parrot (F) 214.4 pts (79m & 79m)

Swimming
US WOMEN'S 500Y (Princeton, NJ)
First Round: (US) 1. Margaret (US) beat 2. Margaret (US) 1-0
Second Round: (US) 1. Margaret (US) beat 2. Margaret (US) 1-0

Table Tennis
NATIONAL LEAGUE—Washington 4, New York 3, Boston 3, Los Angeles 4, St. Louis 7, Toronto 5, Edmonton 5, Calgary 5, Los Angeles 4, St. Louis 7, Toronto 5, Edmonton 5, Calgary 5

Billiards
EUROPEAN WORLD PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (London)
First Round: (UK) 1. Billiard (UK) beat 2. Billiard (UK) 1-0
Second Round: (UK) 1. Billiard (UK) beat 2. Billiard (UK) 1-0

Table Tennis
NATIONAL LEAGUE—First Division: Crystal Palace v. Watford (10); Manchester United v. Portsmouth (12.30); Sunderland v. Birmingham (7.30)

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UEFA CUP — QUARTER FINALS

Michael Nally Man U 1, Videoton 0

Stapleton hits right channel

A goal from the head of Frank Stapleton in the 61st minute gave Manchester United victory against Videoton at Old Trafford last night, but they should have had more. The Hungarian League leaders were no match for them, giving the ball away so often as they were robbed of it. Rushes and the other Magyars of yesteryear would have winced at their profligacy.

United, determined to make the most of their opportunity in Europe for fear of failing to add to their sideboard from domestic competition, had much the better of a frenetic opening. They probed and cut, while Videoton held back.

Hughes was prominent in the opening stages, eager for the ball and marking it to lead the opposing defence astray. He was scored as he forayed, once by two desperate Hungarians. Then, with the ball bobbing about on the edge of the Videoton penalty area, Hughes changed pace and position to give himself an opening to give himself a move. His right-foot shot was firm and straight, but Diszidzisi got down smartly.

Olsen went almost as close minutes later, holding back a speculative crossfield ball in some style before flicking it into the side-netting. He and Hughes then jinked through again, only to be frustrated by the run of the ball at the late second.

As United pressed, Hughes had the ball in the net, but only the linesman had long-since been flagging for offside.

Burcea and Major tried to make some ground for Videoton, but were checked by a wary United defence. Meanwhile, where was Szabo? Videoton's No. 9 arrived with a reputation for finishing. He was top scorer in Hungary last season, with 19 goals from 30 games. But he made no impact in the first-half.

United gave Videoton little respite in the second half. Stapleton found the net after neat approach work, but the linesman disappointed the Stroud End again. Stapleton was not to be denied, however. In the 61st minute he ran forcefully to receive from Strachan and put United into a lead which they richly deserved.

Manchester United: Bailey; Goodman, Alderton, Dochow, McDermott, Hogg, Strachan, Whelan, Hughes, Stapleton, Olsen.

Videoton: P. Diszidzisi, Cudjary, Horvath, L. Puszt, V. Major, B. Major, Szabo, Vadasz, Szab.

Referee: A. L. Castillo (Spain).

David Lacey—Tottenham 0, Real Madrid 1

Perryman's slip lets in Real

The UEFA Cup began to slip from Tottenham's grasp at White Hart Lane last night as they lost the opening leg of their quarter final 1-0 to Real Madrid, who may be having a bad season in the Spanish League but proved too disciplined and well organised for the holders.

In the well-timed counter-attack Stielke found Michel in space and he sent Butragueno on a race along the right wing with Stevens and Miller. Butragueno won, crossed low and hard from the byline and the hapless Perryman, forcing his way into the goalmouth to stop the pass reaching Valdano, saw Clemence get a slight touch before the ball ricocheted back over the line off the Tottenham captain's knees.

Two minutes later Tottenham were almost out of the competition there and then. Their offside trap clanked shut too late as Butragueno sent Valdano clear on the left. His shot beat the oncoming Clemence but squeezed past the far post.

Tottenham dutifully surged back but their movements remained too frantic and un-

likely to achieve serious penetration although Hazard's willingness to take opponents on in tight spaces continued to give them some hope.

Huddle took a long time getting into the game to any serious extent. True he was being stalked in midfield by Angel but he still had the space to create more than he did. As the game wore on Tottenham badly missed the power of the suspended Roberts and especially his ability to carry the play deep and hard into their shots, final passes, and the centre was the prime requirement.

Hazard was the first player to worry the Real defence and did so by running headlong at them before shooting a yard wide. Huddle made space much

closer goal but he too shot past a post. Unable to open up the wings immediately for Chiedozie and Galvin, Tottenham's movements palled and after a quarter of an hour they became less concerned about how many they would score than staying in the tie.

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NICK OF TIME: Steve Nicol, who headed Liverpool's equaliser against Austria Vienna four minutes from time



CAPTAIN'S ERROR... Steve Perryman's own goal gave Real Madrid a first-half lead over Spurs

Francisco leaves his heart in Chesterfield...



FRANCISCO: Champion who can make his own table

SILVINO FRANCISCO, 350,000 rich as winner of the Dulux British Open, is using some of the money to build a snooker room at his home in Chesterfield.

The 38-year-old South African, who has lived in Derbyshire for most of the last three years and now seeks dual nationality, is one of the few people who can assemble a snooker table and then make a century break on it in 14 years.

He worked in Cape Town as a table fitter, salesman and finally production manager before joining an oil company.

Simultaneously, he started a table and accessories business with his elder brother, Manuel. "One of the attractions of the oil job was that I could use some of the money to move tables at the weekends," he said. The Francisco Brothers now have a third partner as human as an ant, I'd be happier if my Government felt the same way."

It was the South African Government's apartheid policy which was indirectly responsible for him turning pro-

Clive Everton meets the successful South African whose English snooker education is beginning to pay dividends

He rolled it instead of punching it. The blue stayed out and, appreciating the enormity of what he had done, he did not win another frame. "I'll never do that again. If I lose, I'll be able to say I went for it 100 per cent."

He learned a great deal from Steve Davis and Cliff Thorburn, not just in shot selection but in their approach to a match. "I used to get up very quickly for a shot but they sit back, relaxing, composing themselves. If someone leaves the ball over a pocket they don't

play was benefitting from the lessons that only experience can buy. Going into the final session of his second round match in the Embassy World Championship against Ray Reardon last May level at 8-8, he needed only a simple blue to clinch the psychologically important opening frame of the day.

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Tyrrell off and running

WORLD RACING: The British Formula One team Tyrrell have settled their differences with the International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) over alleged rule infringements and will compete in the 1985 World Championship. A joint statement by team leader Ron Tyrrell and FISA president Jean-Marie Balestre yesterday confirmed that Tyrrell will drop legal proceedings against FISA and will take part in the 1985 Formula One Series. It is still unclear, however, whether Tyrrell's forfeited 1984 championship points will be restored.

BOXING: Pat Cowdell's European super-featherweight title defence against Carlos Hernandez of Spain at the Aston Villa Leisure Centre on March 16 will be shown live on TV.

TENNIS: Amanda Brown gave Kathy Horvath of the US a tough two-hour fight in the first round of the Virginia Slims tournament in Indianapolis. But the Briton finally went down 6-3, 7-6, 6-3. In Princeton, New Jersey, Martina Navratilova, seeded No. 1, fought back from 3-5 down in the first set of her first-round match in the US national indoor championships against Little Liza B. Ann Hildebrand 7-6, 6-3.

CRICKET: Chris Tavare, who lost the captaincy to Chris Lloyd at the end of last season, signed a new four-year contract with the county yesterday.

WRESTLING: Mary Price of St Albans won the national singles title yesterday, defeating play throughout to beat Sally Franklin from Walsby 21-11. It was Mrs Price's first success.

WRESTLING LEAGUE: Hull Kings won the league title yesterday, defeating their rivals, the Walsby, 1-0. The Kings were fined £250, and a further £750 suspended for a year, while Hull KR were fined £250 also suspended for a year. The Walsby and Hull KR were charged with breaching the rules of the league.

Matthew Engel reports from Melbourne on the World Championship's second semi-final

Lloyd's long goodbye ends in grief



GENTLY DOES IT: Mudassar's medium pace sank West Indies

CRICKET

THE World Championship turned upside down in Melbourne last night when Pakistan beat West Indies by seven wickets and won the right to play India in the final on Sunday.

It was a stunning result, and one that represented the end of more than one era. This was Clive Lloyd's last international match, unless he is daft enough to turn out in the absurd third-place match on Saturday, or the West Indian authorities somehow prevail upon him to extend even further the longest goodbye since Melba.

And it was not merely Lloyd's team that was beaten, but his whole philosophy. West Indies were all out for 189, destroyed by bowling that characteristically arrived long after it was expected: the gentle Mudassar took five for 26 with dinky medium-pace.

West Indies responded with the fiercest bowling of the championship. No other team could have made such a feat of defending such a pathetic total.

But Pakistan got them, with four overs to spare, and this strange tournament now has a final that will ensure the subcontinent, but will not be worth much on this continent. Perhaps they should switch the final to Karachi or Calcutta.

We should have seen this coming. All through the

championship the over-used pitches have been slow and tired as some of the players and bowlers like Mudassar and Binny, Shastri, Snedden and Coney have exasperated impatient batsmen. The Lloyd theory of cricket — blast 'em out — has finally begun to look inadequate.

Last night, the contrast between the two attacks produced a most interesting match, comparable with the first semi-final. But the basis of it was the West Indians' bad batting, born of recklessness and complacency, which allowed Mudassar and Tahir Vasal to return amazingly snatching figures. Batsmen were fooled either by slight movement of the seam (Richards, for instance), or played too early and skied catches inside the ring.

The West Indian batting

was, in theory, already weakened by the absence of the still-injured Gomes. However, his replacement, Harper, turned out to be the most solid of the lot and might have pushed West Indies towards 200 had anyone stayed with him.

And 200 might have been enough. Garner and Marshall emerged breathing fire. Had the force been with them, there could have been carnage. But the edges did not go to hand, the wickets did not make contact, and the stumps somehow evaded the ball. Though Mudassar was out early, Mohsin was able to emerge with credit from a traumatic innings of 93 balls and only 23 runs in a very normal one-day match would have been disastrous.

Fortunately for Mohsin and his team, Rameez Raja, younger brother of Wasim,

SEMI-FINAL SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES		PAKISTAN	
B. L. Mendis	18	Mudassar Hussain	5
P. A. de Silva	12	Mudassar Hussain	5
P. A. de Silva	12	Mudassar Hussain	5
P. A. de Silva	12	Mudassar Hussain	5
P. A. de Silva	12	Mudassar Hussain	5
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P. A. de Silva	12	Mudassar Hussain	5
P. A. de Silva	12	Mudassar Hussain	5

Charles Burgess at St Etienne

Food for thought as Kelly eats up gap

CYCLING

When the hunger knot comes calling, the game is on. The sugar level goes down, energy is drained, the body says 'No more' and the legs stop pumping. It happened yesterday to the Dutchman, Bert Oosterbosch, who was wearing the leader's white jersey at the beginning of the 169km third stage of the Paris-Nice Race between Chateaufort and St Etienne. He lost his lead, and his jersey and will never get it back.

one of the lean, greyhound speed merchants of the professional circuit, had gone on a lone break up in the mist above the snowline in the Lyonnais mountains with 24km to go. He knew that his chances of being the winner in Nice on Sunday rested with his gaining as much time right now and, with a long slow descent into this industrial town he believed he could stay out in front.

Barrie Fairall — St Mary's 16, CXW 11

St Mary's hold shaken

RUGBY UNION

The world's longest-running rugby show which opened in 1878, is still going strong at the breakfast pace of yesterday. By the end of a long and injury-strewn afternoon at Roehampton, St. Mary's had lifted the Hospitals' Cup for the 25th time.

Cross and Westminster backs and a pack threatening to run riot, Mary's moved predictably ahead through three penalties from their full back Miles. Having contained the odd CXW breaker, they were but mildly inconvenienced when Farrar dropped a goal.

ICE SKATING

Sandra Stevenson in Tokyo

Soviets claim first gold

SOVIET skaters took first place in the opening division of the women's contest, retained the top two spots in the second round of the ice dance event and won gold and silver in the pairs, the first medals of the World Championships in Tokyo yesterday.

The Olympic champions, Elena Valova and Oleg Vassiliev, recaptured the world title with a 41 minute routine that was clearly superior to the other 12 pairs.

In yesterday's original set pattern division of the ice dance championship, all 18 places remained unchanged from the opening round, with Karen Barber and Nicky Slater in sixth place. They gave a polished performance of their 'Wonderful quickstep'.

Kira Ivanova, 22, from Moscow, won all three school figures in the opening round of the women's solo event, an excellent start for her ambition to become the first Soviet skater to claim this title since it was first awarded in 1908. The world and Olympic champion, Katarina Witt of East Germany, was second in the first two figures but dropped to third overall behind the US champion, 17-year-old Tiffany Chin from California.

Tragedy befell the great Japanese hope, Midori Ito, at 15 the youngest of the 26 competitors, as she was known as "the jumping sea" because of her unparalleled ability to rotate in the air. She landed awkwardly after a triple flip and broke her right ankle.

STRATFORD

4. MARIJUANA, MARIJUANA.

NOTE: (See 1st and 2nd Columns) (See Column)

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George Cole

Wales: (348m): 4 0 am As Radio, 2 6 18
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Mauners: 10 40 Antiphrase, 11 45 Frank
Hennessy: 5 30 Pauline the Clouds, 5 30
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Radio 2: 4 0 45 10 15 20 25 30
Cyprus (VHF): 5 55 am Weather, 6 00 News
Phobos: 9 45 10 15 20 25 30
Siddell: 12 37 30 35 40 45 50 55
Astr.: 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
6 00 Gwiler Radio 3 5 10 15 20 25 30
10 15 Newsday Trp 10 15 20 25 30
Scotland (375m): 6 0 am As Radio 4,
5 10 Farming News, 6 30 Good Morning
Gordon's Catherine, 12 0 News, 12 10
6 0 As Radio 4, 10 10 15 20 25 30
Show, 5 0 Good Evening Scotland, 6 0
News, 6 0 Farming News, 7 0 The News
7 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100
World Service

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JOSEPH MARBLE ARCH. (723

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Ban on Private Eye stays, judge rules

By Colin Brown, Political Staff

MR CECIL Parkinson, the former Tory Party chairman and cabinet minister dismissed as a pack of lies a report in Private Eye about him and his parliamentary secretary, Mrs Angela Mathew yesterday when a judge refused to lift an injunction against the sale of the magazine.

Mr Parkinson's close colleagues at Westminster believe that the continuation of reports about his private life even unsubstantiated, following his resignation over his affair with his previous secretary, Mrs Sarah Keays, will harm his chances of returning to a prominent place in the cabinet.

Mr Justice Skinner took the unusual step of publishing his judgment after a private hearing yesterday to warn distributors of the magazine of the risk they were running.

Mr Parkinson's solicitor, Mr Peter Carter-Ruck yesterday issued writs seeking damages for libel. Mr Justice Skinner in his judgment called for an early hearing of the libel action by Mr Parkinson and Mrs Mathew against Private Eye.

The publishers, Pressdram, were left in the difficult position last night of having already distributed 60 per cent of the current edition. Before flying to Scotland for a speaking engagement, Mr Parkinson told reporters at Heathrow that he was angered and shocked by the report in the Grovel column and said: "It's all a pack of lies."

The magazine's editor, Mr Richard Ingrams, Pressdram Ltd and the publishers, See Edge Ltd of Hackney, unsuccessfully sought yesterday to have lifted an injunction granted earlier preventing distribution of the edition or repeating the alleged libel.

Mr Justice Skinner said there was a very strong prima facie case that the words complained of were defamatory.

He said that counsel for Private Eye, Mr Desmond Browne had argued that statements in the article could be justified in part "as far as Mr Parkinson is concerned."

The judge said: "I regard this as wholly spurious and a wholly irrelevant argument which fails to deal with the sting."

"So far as the sting is concerned, he argues that because of an incident in the past the plaintiff has no reputation and will only recover at best nominal damages."

"That argument in my view is based on a misconception and does not appeal to me."

2,000 at risk after Servis put in hands of receivers

Oil firm blames competition as 1,000 jobs go

By Alan Dunn and Mary Brasher

About 1,000 people are at risk of losing their jobs when Shell UK in Cheshire, and 2,000 who work for Servis, the Midlands based washing machine manufacturer, are at risk, it was disclosed yesterday.

Another 500 jobs were threatened when Jellinek, the highest building group in South Yorkshire, Humberside, called in receivers.

Shell said that shedding about a third of the workforce at its oil and chemical complex at Stanlow, near Ellesmere Port, would save £20 million a year.

The company blamed fierce competition, overcapacity, and poor profitability, with world demand for oil products said to have dropped by 35 per cent in a decade.

The cuts follow a year-long productivity review at Stanlow, Britain's biggest refinery, which opened in 1992 and mushroomed during the eighties.

Shell hoped that the jobs would go over two years by natural wastage and voluntary redundancy with the first staff leaving towards the end of this year.

A spokesman said that "generous" redundancy terms were being offered and that the firm wanted to avoid compulsory redundancies.

About 70 per cent of the 3,400 workforce is employed on oil side of the complex, with redundancies shared by this and the chemicals operation.

The company has spent £200 million in modernising the plant in the past five years, increasing pressure for rationalisation.

Shell said that its other refineries at Carrington, Shellhaven, and Ardrossan would not be affected by the announcement, which follows closure of the Teesport plant last September.

Mr Howard Jones, chairman of the craft unions' joint committee, said that experience showed that where terms were attractive many people could not resist them, but compulsory redundancies would be defamatory.

He said that counsel for Private Eye, Mr Desmond Browne had argued that statements in the article could be justified in part "as far as Mr Parkinson is concerned."

The judge said: "I regard this as wholly spurious and a wholly irrelevant argument which fails to deal with the sting."

"So far as the sting is concerned, he argues that because of an incident in the past the plaintiff has no reputation and will only recover at best nominal damages."

"That argument in my view is based on a misconception and does not appeal to me."

reisted. Ellesmere Port, which has an unemployment rate of nearly 20 per cent, has lost 7,000 jobs in five years.

Cork Gully the accountants which moved in to run Servis yesterday, was trying to mount a rescue operation and sell parts of the business as going concerns.

The firm, which also assembles dishwashers and microwave ovens, employs 1,500 people on service and maintenance and 600 in the manufacturing division at Darlaston, West Midlands. Both parts are continuing to trade.

Three years ago receivers sold the business to Centreway Industries of Birmingham. Foreign imports were blamed for Servis's difficulties then as it struggled to maintain its share of the market. This time trading conditions and the company's financial problems were being held responsible.

Jellinek, of Scunthorpe, holds contracts all over Britain and in the Middle East. The company's founder, Mr Joe Jellinek, lost executive control in a boardroom coup last week in an attempt to stave off liquidation.

However, the Jellinek board and bankers, yesterday asked Ernst Whinney to act as liquidators, and a creditors' meeting is expected shortly. Unemployment in Scunthorpe, which has lost 16,000 steel jobs in eight years, is running above 20 per cent.

Michael Smith adds: Pan American, the United States airline, has laid off 120 of its 200 British-based cabin staff in a dispute which has cut flights. PanAm said the staff were technically employed in the US and could be laid off under that country's law.

The dispute began last week over pay and productivity and threatens a £2 billion aircraft and engine building contract in which British firms have huge stakes. PanAm has made the Boeing 747 and Boeing 737 consortium engines conditional on new pay and productivity deals with its five unions, but has reached agreement with only one.

Libya faces WPC claim

Continued from page one

the issuing of more visas on a modest scale, where compassionate or medical factors can be established.

"As the Rome talks went on, it began to look as if the Libyans were going to avoid all reference to the shooting in St James's Square in April last year, when bullets fired from a window of the Libyan embassy killed Miss Fletcher.

The British side raised the issue. They asked the Libyans to state who had fired the shots, but go no response. They then asked if the inquiry

in Tripoli, referred to by Colonel Gaddafi, had produced any data, but the Libyans could give no progress report.

The British team then notified the Libyans that they had been told that the Libyans' best-selling peace activist would precede his strategic defence with multilateral disarmament. While this does not make Mr Schell's ideas any more practical it does at least avoid the unstable period of transition feared by many Star Wars objectors, including those in Europe.

"Of course we regret what Mr Schell has been saying," said Ms Marguerite Beck-Rex at the Washington legislative office of the nuclear freeze campaign.

In the campaign's view Mr Schell, who remains one of the great thinkers in the field of arms control, "will be paraded around by those who have no concern for peace." The freeze campaign argues that Star Wars could leave the heavens littered with weapons and satellites in much the same way as the Earth.

In The Abolitionists, Mr Schell, like President Reagan in his now famous Star Wars speech of March 23, 1983, seeks to challenge the conventional thinking on arms control.

He takes issue with the strategic doctrine of mutual assured destruction — under which arms controllers have sought to codify and balance the level of terror

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Mr Norman Saunders, Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands, is led away in handcuffs after his arrest in Miami on drugs charges. The leader of the British Protectorate allegedly accepted a bribe from Federal agents posing as smugglers seeking a staging post in the Caribbean. British diplomats in Washington said Mr Saunders, who was on a private visit, was not eligible for diplomatic immunity in the US, and believed he should resign from the islands' government. Bail has been set at \$2 million. Report, page 8

Weapons freeze leader thaws

Continued from page one

by Mr Schell in his new book, The Abolitionist.

The new strategic concept, which was drawn up by Mr Paul Nitze, President Reagan's adviser on nuclear arms, calls for a "radical reduction in the number and power of existing planned offensive and defensive nuclear arms" leading to a period of transition to non-nuclear defences and the "eventual elimination of nuclear arms... a nuclear free world."

In The Abolitionists, Mr Schell, sticking with the freeze, calls first for sharp arms cuts then an agreement "abolishing nuclear weapons" and finally strategic defences.

The only difference between the Schell doctrine and the Nitze concept is that America's best-selling peace activist would precede his strategic defence with multilateral disarmament. While this does not make Mr Schell's ideas any more practical it does at least avoid the unstable period of transition feared by many Star Wars objectors, including those in Europe.

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95pc of miners return to work as strike collapse continues

Continued from page one

news that the strike was over in Scotland. It said that some 2,500 to 3,000 jobs had been lost through the strike. It would now be necessary to interview men who wished to leave on voluntary redundancy and to provide alternative jobs for all those who had lost their workplace.

Yorkshire's position was confused last night. At the beginning of the day the NCB claimed that only eight of the area's 58 pits were still strike-bound, and that 8,000 men were not at work. But by last night, one remaining pit was

meeting to discuss whether to call off the strike.

The Kent area decided yesterday to call back about 30 pickets sent into the Yorkshire coalfield. Mr Terry Burkett, the Betteshanger union official who organised the pickets, said: "As they're getting on the phone to me, I'm telling them to come back."

"I still think there are a lot of Yorkshire men that are prepared to fight, but the decision has been made up there by the Yorkshire area leadership that the picket lines are not official and we've got to respect that."

There are no immediate plans to reconvene a meeting of the Kent area council to discuss the area's increasingly isolated position, but it is unlikely that the Kent area will stay out indefinitely once the rest of the coalfield has returned to work.

Forty-two Kent miners have been sacked during the dispute. More than 300 arrests of miners have been made by the police in Kent, but most sackings came during occupations of two of the three pits in the area after which no arrests were made.

140 sent home in blacking row

By Paul Hovland

One hundred and forty men have been sent home without pay for the second day at the NCB's Tondur workshops in Mid-Glamorgan for refusing to handle a compressor blacked during the strike, the boards director in South Wales, Mr Philip Weekes said.

"We cannot tolerate or accept a situation in which this type of activity is allowed to fester. Anyone who refuses to work normally with equipment, who blacks company's lorries, or who refuses to work with any miner who returns to work, will be sent home and will not be paid," he said.

Three hundred miners who

walked out at Merthyr Vale colliery in Mid-Glamorgan on Tuesday, after a coalface team refused to work with a man who broke the strike last month, returned to work yesterday. The lodge had demanded that the man be moved to another part of the pit, but neither the union nor management was prepared to say what settlement had been reached.

Patrick Wintour adds: Two senior members of the NUM in the North-east were sacked by the coal board yesterday for alleged gross misconduct. They are Mr Arthur Oxley, the union's delegate to the Durham area council, from Vane Tempest pit, near Seaham; pit,

and Mr John Smith, the branch secretary at Ashington colliery.

Mr Oxley said yesterday he had received a summons on February 15 after an incident allegedly involving threatening behaviour four miles from the pit on January 10.

In Northumberland, the NCB refused to give details of Mr Smith's dismissal, but reports alleged that it concerned an alleged assault on a member of the deputies union, NACODS.

Miners at Wearmouth colliery in Durham are making an official complaint about police behaviour on Tuesday during the march back to the

Inquiry fails to allay phone tap fears

Continued from page one

mine or overthrow parliamentary democracy.

In Lord Harris's speech—one which has not been used in the past as one of the cornerstones of counter intelligence policy—it is made clear that not every group thought to be operating against British interests can be said to have the aim of subverting parliamentary democracy.

The 1980 white paper said that for the issue of a warrant for MIA interceptions "there must be a major subversive, terrorist or espionage activity that is likely to injure the national interest."

The concern of Opposition MPs is that there is no public accountability for any activities which may be undertaken by MIA without the issue of a ministerial warrant.

They are particularly concerned at the practice of issuing blanket warrants to cover an organisation, under which a large number of individuals can be put under surveillance.

One senior figure with close experience of counter intelligence said last night that he was less concerned about telephone tapping than about the possibility of other forms of spying which required no detailed ministerial authorisations.

The Government faces a period of sustained pressure for fundamental reforms in the accountability of the security service. Even among those MPs who have experience of security and who are confident that almost all operations are tightly controlled, pressure is building up for a new form of scrutiny, perhaps by a committee of senior parliamentarians.

Ms Joan Riddock, the chairwoman of CND, said last night that the inquiry had been a whitewash. It is ludicrous to say that the investigation can have been held in three days, she said.

She added that in theory one warrant could have given MIA the right to tap any member of CND. She called for a full inquiry into unauthorised interceptions, an area not covered by Lord Bridge.

Britain's leading fee-paying schools should drop the term "public schools" if they want to lose their elitist image, Mr Roy Haygarth, head of Liverpool College, said in the Headmasters' Conference journal.

Domesday date

The Public Record Office museum near London's law courts is to stay closed until April 1986 to prepare for an exhibition to celebrate the 900th anniversary of the Domesday Book.

Several GCHQ officials have also expressed concern about what they describe as potential excesses in GCHQ's operations that would outrage the public if they were allowed to know about them.

One of the problems about bringing the GCHQ under the bill is that signals intelligence is based on the wholesale harvesting of messages transmitted by satellite, in addition to any specific targets.

Mr Richard Holmes, senior adviser to the Liberal leader, Mr David Steel and prospective Liberal candidate, for Cheltenham, said that because of GCHQ's links with the US

private communications was first confirmed publicly in hearing of the United States Senate intelligence committee in the mid 1970s.

The Home Office also said that the bill would repeal the section of the 1920 Official Secrets Act which has provided the legal basis for the Government's demands for information in private transatlantic communications.

Though the Home Office was reluctant to confirm this publicly yesterday, it emphasised that the bill would apply to all, including international communications.

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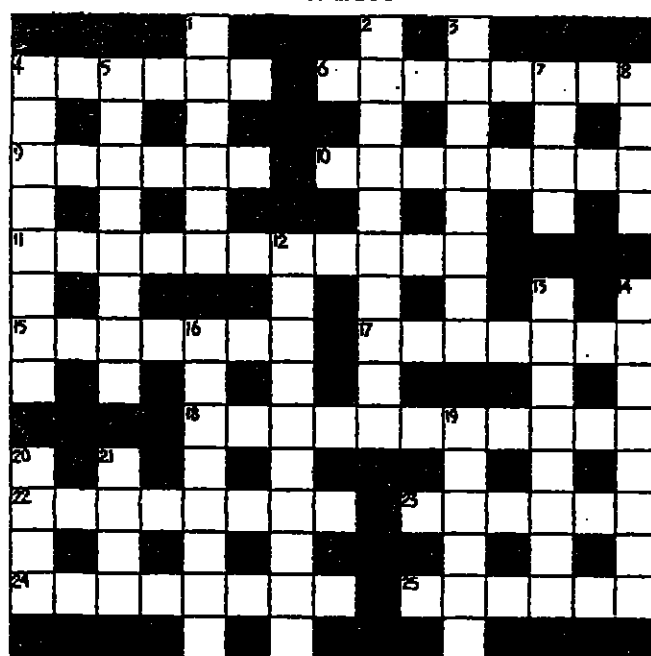
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GUARDIAN CROSSWORD 17,178

AUDREUS



- ACROSS
- Model taken in by undignified customers is avaricious (6).
 - Test case for cake in court (8).
 - See 25.
 - People admitted hearing the opening (8).
 - Didn't go walkies and was given no training (11).
 - Seducer with untidy centre parting — this is where I came in (7).
 - An extra blessing Ring Round the Moon? (7).
 - How generously the lady behaved (11).
 - It's part of the mystery and teeming with contention for me (See 7) (12,6).
 - See 25.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 17,177

PLATONIC CREMIA
SEPARATIVE TILDE
TRISLE
OPERETHA PSYCHE
LWITSALE
APGALDSIE
DISCRESSION
CANAETS
CAINING DRACINAE
HUBBEN OPERATED
OSU
MUTUARY SCRAMBLE

- DOWN
- Put a lot of exertion into influencing voters (6).
 - Part of the engine was made by a nutter — quiet at the back? (10).
 - Robert, short and topless, is more inelegant when he thrusts himself forward (8).
 - Exaggerated! and blushed (8).
 - Bad blood put a stop to influence races in Virginia (8).
 - "I'll, with — for — was worth 22." In which 25, 23, 9 reflects on a peaceful existence (4).
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 - Hold out as the officer gets out (4).
 - Master, draw near! I say, bending the accent (10).
 - Born late, groomed for boxing (5,3).
 - Lavette found by graduate beside the river (8).
 - Crab teas provided, with variety turns (8).
 - Muffler turned up without a row (6).
 - First upset the chieftain (4).
 - The goddess could be one's double (4).

Solution tomorrow

THE WEATHER

Dry and sunny

A FRONTAL trough from south-west England to central Scotland will move slowly eastwards, and another trough of low pressure will approach north-western districts of the British Isles later.

London: Sunny, periods, dry, becoming overcast, with light rain, 9 to 11°C (46 to 52°F).

South: Sunny, periods, dry, becoming overcast, with light rain, 9 to 11°C (46 to 52°F).

AROUND THE WORLD

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AROUND BRITAIN